Overcoming dyslexia: It can be done — LEARNING / F1

No need for GMA powers, say solons — NEWS / A2

RP Patriots bag inaugural ABL crown — SPORTS / A29

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
ENLIGHTENED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

4 DAYS OF EDSA I

How to live the way of People Power

By Eugenia Duran-Apostol
Inquirer Researching Chair

COMMENTARY

AFTER 24 YEARS, People Power should already be an integral part of our daily lives. Unfortunately, it is not. Why is this so? To answer this question, we need to be clear about what People Power really is.

Our high school history text books do not have an exact definition of the concept of People Power. In fact in a number of instances, little context is given as much so that the high school student's appreciation of Edsa People Power Revolution be-

HOW TO A22

EDSA ANNIVERSARY A worker adorns a lamppost with a yellow ribbon in preparation for today's 24th anniversary celebration of the Edsa I uprising at the People Power Monument on Edsa, Quezon City.

No security marks on ballots for ARMM

2M election papers useless, says watchdog

By Kristine L. Alave

THE SECURITY OF NEARLY TWO MILLION BALlots for voters in the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM) may have been compromised after they were printed without the security markings of the National Printing Office (NPO), the Inquirer has learned.

An NPO source confirmed that the ARMM-bound ballots for the May 10 general elections had no NPO security features. The autonomous region consists of the provinces of Basilan, Lanao del Sur, Maguindanao, Sulu and Tawi-Tawi.

Archbishop Oscar V. Cruz and Fr. Joe Dizon of Bantay Dayo and sources from two groups the Inquirer interviewed said they had received reports from the Commission on Elections (Comelec) and the NPO that the ballots for the ARMM did not have the government-mandated markings of the NPO.

"The ARMM ballots have no markings," said the NPO source, who asked not to be named because of the sensitivity of his work.

NO SECURITY A22

BEATING THE HEAT A young woman tries to battle the heat caused by El Niño with water overflowing from the Wawa Dam, a defunct reservoir in Rodriguez (Montalban) in Rizal. (See stories in Across the Nation, Page A14, and Business, Page B1.)

NPA sells campaign permits

By Roy M. Nasol
Inquirer Southern Luzon

LEGAZPI CITY—COMMUNIST rebels are demanding cash from election candidates in exchange for "permit cards" that will allow them to campaign unmolested, particularly in upland communities, according to the military.

Government forces retrieved a bag containing permits allegedly issued by New People's Army (NPA) rebels to people who had paid them protection money. Maj. Harold Cabunoc, spokesperson of the 9th Infantry Division of the Philippine Army, told the Inquirer on Saturday.

More than 300 signed "per-

NPA A22

Scenarios of doom if polls fail

By Amando Doronila

THE COUNTRY WILL CELEbrate the 24th anniversary of the Edsa People Power Revolution on Feb. 25 amid threats to the holding of the presidential elections on May 10.

ANALYSIS

Ahead of the Edsa I anniversary, Senate President Juan Ponce Enrile raised last week the specter of military intervention in the event of a power vacuum stemming from a failed election.

On Wednesday last week, National Grid Corp. of the Philip-

SCENARIOS A22

PAROLE $5-million bounty on his head.

Top Abu Sayyaf leader, 5 others killed

By Julie S. Alipala
Inquirer Mindanao
and Jocelyn R. Uy
in Manila

THE MILITARY CLAIMED A major victory in its war against the Abu Sayyaf yesterday when Marines assaulted the bandits' lair and killed six of them, including a top leader with a $5-million bounty on his head.

"We have confirmed that one of the six bodies belonged to Al-hader Parad as confirmed by four independent civilian sources," Lt. Gen. Ben Dolorfino, the Western Mindanao Command chief, told the Inquirer by phone.

One Marine was killed while three other soldiers were wounded in a fierce two-hour gun battle at Barangay Kaumaran in Maimbung, Sulu, the military said.

The US government had a bounty of $5 million on Parad's head. The Philippine government's bounty was P7 million.

"It's a very significant gain in our campaign against terrorism because we all know that Al-hader Parad is one of their influential leaders," Dolorfino said.

"This will have a very big demoralizing effect on the other members and shows that they cannot hide forever from the

TOP ABU A6

Reef ball has ashes of RP worker in UN

By Tonette Orejas
Inquirer Central Luzon

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO—A reef ball in the waters of Mabini town in Batangas and a beach in Central Park, New York—that's how Jerome Yap, the 43-year-old UN staff member who died in the Jan. 12 earthquake in Haiti will be remembered by friends and loved ones.

Yesterday, exactly 41 days after Yap's death, his brother-in-law Raffy Angeles and three friends dived 40 feet under the sea to place a reef ball among the coral reefs in Mabini.

Reef balls are large concrete structures used primarily to restore ailing reefs or to create new reefs.

But this particular reef ball was special—the concrete had been mixed with the ashes of Yap.

REEF BALL A22

IN MEMORY A reef ball containing the ashes of Jerome Yap, a Haiti earthquake victim, is released off Mabini, Batangas.

Kris suffers head injury from bad fall

By Marinel R. Cruz, Christine O. Avendaño and Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

ACTRESS AND TELEVISION host Kris Aquino, who has been confined at Makati Medical Center since Friday night for "cerebral and laboratories concussion" as a result of a bad fall, could be discharged as soon today, a source close to Kris told the Inquirer.

KRIS A20

From jeep, Erap tries tricycle tack

By Christian V. Esguerra

ERAP HAS TAPPED THE LOWLY tricycle to prevent him back to Malacañang.

With his campaign lefty repeatedly drying up, former President Joseph Estrada has picked a

ERAP A20

WEATHER FORECAST

Second FRONTPAGE

6/49
10 3 2 10 26 38

SUPER LOTTO 6/45
5 8 8 5 7 9

0 5 2

SUPER LOTTO 6/49
9 14 37 39 42 43
P29,199,340.00

No need to give GMA powers–solons

By Christine Avendaño and Gil Cabacungan Jr.

LAWMAKERS YESTERDAY SAID THERE WAS NO NEED FOR CONGRESS TO GRANT President Macapagal-Arroyo emergency powers to deal with the power crisis because existing laws already vested her with vast powers to meet such contingencies.

Sen. Aiker Arroyo, interviewed over dzBB radio, pointed out that the Constitution and the franchises of businesses grant the President powers to temporarily take over power companies and direct their operations. "In times of national emergency where the public interest so requires."

That's why there is no need for Congress to grant the Chief Executive such powers, Arroyo said. "The power is already there."

Sen. Edgardo Angara, interviewed separately by over the same station, said there was no urgent need to solve the power crisis, positing lately with the elections coming up, but he agreed with Arroyo that there were sufficient laws to respond to the crisis.

The power crisis should not be used as a basis for declaring emergency rule, Angara said.

Speaker Prospero Nograles said the President's rule over powers might not even be necessary.

"The President can just declare a state of calamity in case of a power failure and make use the use of the (P12 billion) calamity fund to calm the crisis. The executive branch already has sufficient powers under our energy laws to address and take concrete actions if they know their law," Nograles said.

Talk things over first

Arroyo said a takeover of power firms should be done only after the government talks to the utility firms concerned.

"They should talk things over, in other words, cooperation is needed. This is needed so that we don't ban power, especially during the election," he said.

But he said the government could direct or coordinate the operations of the power plants.

A Joint Congressional Power Commission is scheduled to meet in the Senate today to discuss the dwindling power supply situation, particularly in Mindanao.

The President's son, Pampanga Rep. Juan Miguel Arroyo, also said his mother should study use her emergency powers as her "last option" in solving the power crisis in Mindanao.

"I trust this last option. We must first explore other options," said the young Arroyo, who chairs the House committee on energy, in a phone interview.

He said Mindanao authorities should first try to solve the problem on their own with power suppliers in the region before seeking help from the executive branch. "It's difficult in such sensitive things, especially with the way people can manipulate on our motives. People should realize that the proposal to give my mother emergency powers came from the opposition," he said.

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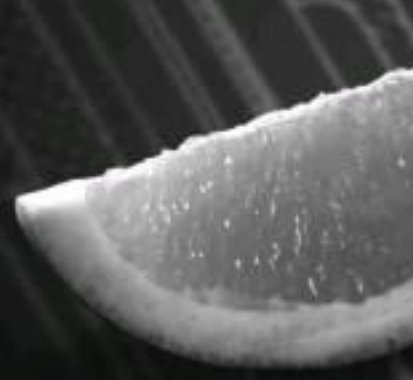

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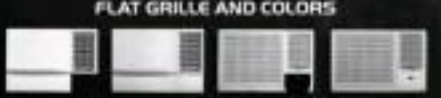

Carrier

Turn to the Experts

'Edsa moving GMA to make up with foes'

PRESIDENT MACAPAGAL-ARROYO IS WILLing to reconcile with her political opponents in keeping with the spirit of the 1986 Edsa revolution, according to her spokesperson.

As the commemoration of the People Power begins this week, Deputy Presidential Spokesperson Gary Olivar said "reconciliation is important," more so now than a collective effort is needed to mitigate the effects of El Niño.

"Let us look at the things that bind us together and get us together instead of the things that divide us from each other, especially in the campaign season and the election season," he said on his weekly media forum aired over government-run Radyo ng Bayan.

Olivar appealed to opposition candidates to refrain from assailing Mrs Arroyo since she was on her way out of Malacañang in 2010.

"They should not drag the President into their campaigns," he said.

The President has four months left of her nine-year term. But Mr Arroyo's decision to run for Congress representing the second district of Pampanga has drawn flak from her detractors. They accuse her of aiming to become Speaker and then Prime Minister in the event of a shift to a parliamentary government.

Olivar said Mr Arroyo intended to leave a "legacy of stability and reconciliation behind together with the economic achievements that she has brought about."

Olivar said the gains of Edsa, particularly with the return of democracy, should be maintained in the elections.

"Let us compare this rainbow of colors during the election campaign because we're having elections—not another Edsa—in changing our leaders," he said. "This is a very big achievement in our democracy."

Olivar said the country should prove to the world that it had achieved "political maturity" and should no longer resort to another Edsa uprising to resolve conflicts.

"It is to moments like these that we will in fact show that we deserve to be the inheritors of the two Edsa legacies bequeathed to us," he said.

Christine Avendaño

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DOE Secretary Angelo Reyes, who sits as Vice Chairman of the Power Sector Assets & Liabilities Management Corp. **(PSALM)**, **authorized the use of Angat Dam to generate power, despite the absence of flow meters to measure its hourly releases AND** despite El Niño.

The Consumer & Oil Price Watch **(COPW)** commends Manila Water & Maynilad for being **proactive as they will, at their expense, install flow meters** at the appropriate valves to ensure that **first priority of Angat is for drinking water, second – irrigations for farmers, and third – power generation.**

When this is in place, the National Water Resources Board **(NWRB)** must furnish daily reports to Manila Water, Maynilad, and **COPW**. This technology must be applied to all the dams nationwide to prevent the same condition in Metro Manila from happening. Otherwise, people will suffer from thirst and agricultural lands will dry and crack up from lack of irrigation.

SECOND:

DOE Secretary and **PSALM** Vice Chairman Angelo Reyes **must explain to the people why he did not ensure that power plants are repaired during the rainy season** and **NOT DURING SUMMER** when demand for power is at its peak.

This is a **wake up call** for Secretary Reyes. He **must ensure** that the Angat Dam **will not be used to generate power effective immediately until the rainy season** as the water level in the reservoir has **fallen below the rule curve**.

These sentiments were expressed by **COPW** representing Metro Manila residents and likewise ventilated by officials from Taguig, Taytay, Parañaque, and Bulacan who attended the Stakeholders' Forum held by **PSALM**.

With respect to the dams especially in **VISAYAS** and **MINDANAO**, **the greatest concern is IRRIGATION.** Therefore, COPW recommends that these **dams should only be used for irrigation to ensure that farmers will have water to irrigate their farmlands.**

We want your feedback

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Deadline of submission of application is on March 1, 2010.

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c/o APEC Communications Building
University of Asia and the Pacific
Pearl Drive, Ortigas Center, Pasig City
Tel: (632) 638 3535
Telefax: (632) 637 0012 loc 207
Email: 10000women@uapay.edu.ph
Website: www.10000women.com.ph

IESE UA&P

Two Batches Graduate from 10,000 Women Business Training Program

Manila, February 22, 2010 – By the end of 2009, two batches of women entrepreneurs had graduated from the Business Training Program offered by the University of Asia and the Pacific (UA&P) through the Goldman Sachs 10,000 Women initiative. The women received their Certificate in Business and Entrepreneurship after completing the 150-hour modular course.

Ruby Nonatoo and her fellow scholars represent a new generation of business leaders.

First lady graduate Ivy Ann Dimaliwat, who has been in business for about five years, said the Business Training Program was instrumental to the participants' success.

"Even if we came from different backgrounds, the training has the potential to affect us more holistically," Dimaliwat, 26, said. "Personally, before I joined this program, I mostly learned theory and I learned a lot from the program, but I also learned a lot from the people who are in my group. The program was empowering," related Ivy, who runs an organic medicinal mushroom manufacturing and trading business.

For Felicisa Pantoja, a coffee shop and restaurant operator in Davao City, the program also helped her to develop a new perspective.

"My ideas were validated as it is interesting to learn about the different methodologies used in understanding business concepts and how to apply them in real life. I also learned how to understand employees' performances by using a guide module on behavioral qualities and how to motivate them," Pantoja, 31, said. She is also a member of the Davao Women Entrepreneurs Inc. Investors' Society. The group's operating principle states values fostering, building and valuing things that deal with the environment. "I am much grateful for this program," she commented.

The training program also helped sharpen the aspirations gained by the participants after an entire year in business.

"The program is very useful in entrepreneurship like us who ventured into business. It equipped us with the skills needed to manage our business. The knowledge that we have learned will help us in the future as we grow our business. This is a very good program for those who are beginners," shared Stefan Ahrig, who has been installing components for three (3) years.

Moreover, the program served to inspire the women scholars to pass along the knowledge they have acquired and the opportunities they have gained.

Veronica S. Reyes, who has more than five years' experience selling industrial gases and welding equipment, said the program has given her a new perspective. "I have thought it's enough that we business graduates study the business training program, but I realized that I should also share what I learned to my employees. I have started to hold the monthly team-building activities, a concept of bonding and socializing with their families and to our community."

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Top Abu Sayyaf leader killed

Paragraph 1

arms of the law," he added.

Patad had been linked to the kidnapping of three international Red Cross workers on Jolo in January 2009. The three—a Filipino, a Swiss and an Italian—were eventually freed.

The bandit leader had also been implicated in the abduction in 2008 of ABS-CBN reporter Ces Drilon, her cameraman and peace advocate Octavio Dinampo. They were also released later.

Caught by surprise

A Marine special operations platoon raided the Abu Sayyaf camp following intelligence reports that Patad and another bandit leader—Ustadz Jainalid, also known as Dr. Abu—were there, Dolorfino said.

A younger brother of Jainalid—Abdulhajis Jainalid—was among those killed. The other bandits killed were identified as Sirtad Abring, Omar Sirtibah, Hamilton Sadjad and Tahil Sirtad.

Dolorfino said the recovery of the bandits' bodies and their weapons indicated the Abu Sayyaf group were caught by surprise and could have suffered more casualties since it was unusual for them to leave their dead behind.

The weapons taken from the group were a Belgian FN rifle, two M-203 grenade launchers and a Squad Automatic Weapon rifle.

Interior Undersecretary said Patad's body was to be buried at the Jolo Muslim Cemetery on Sunday afternoon.

Gunboats and warplanes

The Marines were backed by patrol gunboats and air power, according to Navy spokesperson Lt. Cmd. Edgard Arevalo.

"This is a severe blow against the Abu Sayyaf leadership and a major victory for the peace-loving people of Sulu, who have been cooperating with our Marines by providing vital information about the bandit group," Arevalo said.

Brig. Gen. Benito Ramos, chief of Task Force Comet, said Sunday's "surgical" operation against the bandits had been planned for months.

The Abu Sayyaf is believed to have received funds from the al-Qaida terror network and is on a US list of terrorist organizations. With AP and AFP reports

'Not a hot spot'

THE CITY OF ALABANG IS NOT AN ELECtion hot spot, according to its mayor, Jaime Fresnedi.

Fresnedi yesterday protested the inclusion by the Commission on Elections (Comelec) of Alabang on its list of election trouble spots. The decision was based on the recommendation of Philippine National Police (PNP) Region 4A Director Senior Supt. Percival Cendaña.

Fresnedi said the PNP report was baseless, stressing that Alabang was peaceful and orderly.

"I am not a gambling lord, neither am I a drug lord. Alabang is a tourist spot because of the Hundred Islands National Park, it is not a hot spot," he said. "This is absolutely unfair to our constituents. Not a single killing or shooting related incident has been reported here in the past 20 years."

"We have been enjoying a tremendous influx of tourists for the past five years. We might lose our visitors this summer because of this," Fresnedi said.

He appealed to the Comelec to remove Alabang from the list and urged the PNP to visit the city to learn the real score.

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Gordon reveals why he's running

By Edson Tandoc Jr. and Cathy Ramosan

TAGUIG (8) CEBU: HAVE just sought reelection in the Senate, Sen. Richard Gordon told a crowd east of Manila yesterday that he decided to run for president because of "a lack of deserving candidates."

Speaking to reporters and people who gathered around him at the Hamaka festival parade in Taytay, Rizal, Saturday afternoon, Gordon said: "The field is weak. That is why I ran."

The standard-bearer of the Bagumbayan-Volunteers party said, referring to the other presidential aspirants: "There is someone who is very intelligent but who has no experience. There is a very rich man who will just recoup his campaign expenses if he wins. And there is someone who has inherited a good name."

Gordon said his running mate Bayani Fernando surprised many people when they filed their certificates of candidacy on the last day of filing last year.

The fact that no political party managed to complete a united slate, said Gordon, "shows that the parties have failed."

"A party is an aggregation of people with an ideology and a plan for government. There are no such parties anymore," he said. He also frowned on politicians who leapfrog from one party to another.

Gordon himself used to be a member of the Nacionalista Party but he said he quit after Villar, its standard bearer, "bought" it.

"I don't want to be associated with somebody who buys his political party," Gordon said.

Last week, Gordon addressed the Philippine Business Leaders Forum but ended up in a verbal tussle with a member.

Gordon bristled when one of the businessmen asked why he was running when it appeared that his chances of winning were virtually nil.

Quinn San Agustin, general manager of Biotech Philippines Inc., asked Gordon about his chances, saying Gordon was appreciated by "people like us who are, whatever," but not "the mass," who comprise "80 percent" of the voting population.

"I am not going to debase the issue by thinking they cannot understand. I think they do," replied Gordon, who remains in the single-digit range in presidential surveys.

"The reason why I ask that Mr. Senator (is because) the results of both of you (and Fernando) are virtually equal," San Agustin continued.

"But we're not gonna win, right? We can say it," the senator cut him off.

San Agustin said, "I really want to help, GSO. But the 80 percent (of voters), the mass that (Erap) probably removed (from) the sidewalks are now against him and that is the problem with pop. charity votes."

Loren: Poll showing Noynoy ahead 'psywar'

MANDAUE CITY — Opposition vice presidential candidate Sen. Loren Legarda said here yesterday a recent survey showing a spike in voter preference for Liberal Party (LP) standard-bearer Sen. Benigno "Noynoy" Aquino III was nothing but a ha-ha of "psywar."

"We know it is psywar, a media war, they need news on the front page. Remember that in September last year, I admit, they were ahead [with] 60 percent. But now they've gone down to 30 percent. If you fall five (5) 20 (percent), you have a big problem. You have to look where you came from," said Legarda, referring to the initial outpouring of support for Aquino after his mother died and he announced he was running for president.

Legarda, who belongs to the Nacionalista Party (NP), is one of the running mates of Nationalist Party (NP) presidential candidate Sen. Manuel Villar. They are two-time incumbent Cebu with other NP national candidates.

A Taylor Nelson Sofres (TNS) survey conducted on Jan. 26-Feb. 3 and reported on yesterday showed Aquino leading his closest rival Villar by 11 percentage points.

Commissioned by LP senatorial candidate Sergio Osmeña, the survey showed of 34 percent of 3,000 respondents nationwide picked Aquino, while 20.63 percent picked Villar for president.

It also showed Legarda leading behind Aquino's running mate, Sen. Mar Roxas.

"Not to boast," Legarda said at a press conference here, "Noynoy is in a big fall, and Mar will follow."

Aquino, however, was riding high on the results of the TNS survey.

"They claimed they had come close to us in the surveys. But now they are again falling behind in spite of their unimaginable ad spending. I think people are getting to know the message or who really has the right to say he is for change," said Aquino of the NP in an interview with reporters in Manila. Mikka Ofanda and Bill C. Gabe-cargan Jr.

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Monday, February 22, 2010
Chair of Peter — 1st Sunday I Ps 113:1-4
Gospel: Mt 16:13-19

Jesus came to Caesarea Philippi. He asked his disciples, "What do people say of the Son of Man? Who do they say I am?" They said, "Some of them say you are John the Baptist; for others (he is) Elijah or one of the prophets."

Jesus asked them, "But you, who do you say I am?" Peter answered, "You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God." Jesus replied, "It is well for you, Simon Bar-Jona, for it is not flesh or blood that has revealed this to you but my Father in heaven.

"And now I say to you: You are Peter (or Rock) and on this rock I will build my Church, and never will the powers of death overcome it.

"I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven; whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven, and whatever you unbind on earth shall be unbound in heaven."

Commentary:

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Erap libel rap vs Inquirer, Yuchengco junked

THE SANDIGANBAYAN PROSECUTOR HAS DISMISSED a libel complaint filed last year by deposed President Joseph Estrada against the Inquirer and businessman Alfonso Yuchengco.

The story quoted Yuchengco accusing the former president and several associates gaining up kickbacks in Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co. (PLDT) in favor of the Metro Pacific group led by Manuel Pangilinan.

In a resolution dated Feb. 12, Ombudsman Prosecutor Aniano Desierto said Estrada was not able to establish even a prima facie case against Yuchengco and Inquirer publisher Eugenio Lopez III, editor in chief Letty Jimenez-Magsanoc, and reporters Jamaine Lucas, Christine Avendaño and Doris Franche.

He referred to an item in the Sept. 16 issue of the newspaper that said Yuchengco had contributed some of the alleged kickback received by Sen. Ramon Revilla Jr. to a privilege speech the latter delivered on Sept. 14.

Lawyer of the three was leading accusation with Estrada over the November 2000 kidnap. incident of publisher Salvador "Sonny" Dacer and his driver Emmanuel Corpuz.

Estrada and a lawyer for PLDT chair Manuel Pangilinan had denied any narration had subsisted.

But Yuchengco stated a statement condemning Lacson's statements, saying "These charges were taken from me in 1998 through sheer intimidation and undue threats to my business, myself and my family."

Stevens ruled that Yuchengco could not be held liable for libel. "There is nothing defamatory" in his statement, which in the first place did not identify Estrada "as the responsible party for the threats and intimidation."

Stevens also found "nothing defamatory" in the Inquirer news report.

"It makes no judgments, accusations or expressions to any particular person, including Estrada," Desierto said.

Aviation exec gets job back

THE CIVIL SERVICE Commission (CSC) has ordered the reinstatement of the deputy head of the Civil Aviation Authority of the Philippines (CAAP), after finding the administrative proceedings that led to his dismissal.

In a 32-page resolution dated Feb. 6, the CSC ruled that due to incongruities [illegible] Civil Aviation Service General Daniel Gonzaga guilty of the counts of misconduct was invalid, constituted by CAAP's Director General Robert Chua.

"The Commission orders the immediate reinstatement of respondent Gonzaga with payment of full backwages and other benefits from the time of dismissal until his actual reinstatement, without prejudice to the commencement of an administrative case against [him] if warranted," the CSC ruled.

The CSC said Chua erred in limiting the investigative body, prohibiting his Deputation Court ruling that only the appointing authority had disciplinary jurisdiction over a public official.

In Gonzaga's case, the CSC said, he was appointed in July 2000 by the CAAP board and not by Chua.

After careful scrutiny of records, the Commission finds no evidence showing that the board delegated to Chua the authority to initiate the administrative proceedings against Gonzaga," the CSC said. Jerome Aning

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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

OPINION

True meaning

EDITORIAL

THIS WEEK, WE COMMEMORATE THE 24TH ANniversary of People Power. The Edsa revolution ousted a military-backed dictatorship through the world's first peaceful citizens' uprising; other, generally non-violent popular revolts followed in its wake. The first emergence of People Power also put Philippine history back on the right path; it fulfilled Rizal's prophesy about a moral nation finally entering the government it deserved.

It seems unfortunate, then, that the official rites to commemorate the defining moment of the last quarter-century will be held today, as a concession to the Aquino administration's revenue-generating policy of "holiday economics." Unfortunate, because the real milestone took place on Feb. 25, 24 years ago.

We remember Edsa 1 as a complete event—and it became complete when Corazon Aquino took her oath of office as president in Club Filipino on Feb. 25, and Ferdinand Marcos abandoned Malacañang Palace by nightfall of the same day.

To commemorate Edsa 1 on Feb. 22, as Malacañang bids us do this year, because by some bureaucrat's reckoning it is the closest Monday to the real anniversary, carries the risk of privileging the action of the reformist military rebels who triggered the crisis, over the meeting, completely unexpected and still profoundly moving reaction of the citizens themselves to resolve the crisis.

On Saturday, Feb. 22, 1986, or three weeks after the so-called Snap Election, the Reform the Armed Forces faction in the Marcos military attempted to seize power; the plan was discovered even before the attempt could be made in earnest; as a defensive maneuver, the military rebels retreated at first to Camp Aguinaldo and then, on the advice of Lt. Gen. Fidel Ramos, to the seaside, easier-to-defend Camp Crame. On the night of Feb. 22, Ruiz Aquino, brother of the assassinated martyr Ninoy Aquino and a leader of the so-called parliament of the streets, mobilized a sizeable group to support the rebels. Not too long after, Jaime Cardinal Sin, the influential archbishop of Manila, called on the people themselves to defend Juan Ponce Enrile, RAM's real leader, Ramos and the rebels. Thus began Edsa 1.

Enrile, soon Senate president, has not been shy about his preference for Feb. 22 as the turning point, and that the date of the real anniversary, of the Edsa revolution. But the unprecedented action of millions of Filipino citizens took shape over the next three days—and served to purge the "revolution of the people," as Ramos described it with great accuracy, of its militaristic element. To put it bluntly, if Marcos had fled the palace grounds on the night of Feb. 22, the country would have woken up the next day to a military junta.

It was only through the steadfast action of millions of citizens, who marched to Edsa to protect the rebels with their very lives and stop the tanks in their tracks, that the crisis that led to Edsa was redeemed, became part of the narrative of democratic restoration.

The real anniversary is Feb. 25, the day Marcos surrendered the Palace and Cory assumed the presidency.

We remember this fundamental truth with greater clarity because this week marks the first Edsa 1 anniversary we will celebrate after Cory's death. Heightened public interest in her agonizing last days and (reportedly) the massive outpouring of grief and affection that attended her funeral have helped a scandal-weary nation uncover a sense of its better self. Millions of Filipinos shared the same thought: "This is what we were capable of then, a generation ago."

Perhaps the teachers of the present generation will turn holiday economics on its head, and, this Thursday, when the students are back in school, use the real anniversary of the great People Power revolution to impart history's chief lesson: A nation is built out of the sacrifices of many. That is the true meaning of the catchphrase that consoled the country after Ninoy's assassination: "Hindi ito wag-tiis."

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Midnight contract for Bohol airport

AS I SEE IT

Neal H. Cruz

WITH THE ELECTIONS ONLY THREE months away, the laws already prohibit "midnight contracts." The election also prohibits the start of new government infrastructure projects at this time, so—four to the election. The reasons are obvious: to prevent the award of contracts to friends of the outgoing administration or "aid of election," violations of the law carries penalties of imprisonment and hefty fines.

Yet here is the outgoing administration of President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo about to award a P1.32 billion (that's billion) contract for the Panglao Bohol Airport Development Project.

Not only that, the contract is about to be awarded not to the lowest bidder but to one of the highest bidders. Some people in this outgoing administration may be providing the chief bidder, when they would be out of duty government jobs.

Here is the story: For the first phase of the airport project, Construction Authority for Philippine Airports (Capa) awarded the Pangalinan Inc., Ilde, and Asiatic Contractor (PIAC) invited bidders at the last possible. Eighteen bidders showed interest. Seven withdrew later; two did not show up. Their were four two-completing bidders and five completing bidders. Of the latter five, First United (FUCC) had the lowest bid of P940,106,320.

The others had the following bids: Equitenpo, P1,277,007,411.07; Diamond, P1,498,888,888.00; Philcanpin, P1,505,425,598.22; and Lan, P1,511,260,791.11. The government estimate for the cost is P1,510,399,200.00. Except for FUCC, which bidded less than P1billion, the four other bidders clustered tightly together near the government estimate.

This is abnormal and suspicious, according to veteran contractors. In a truly competitive bidding, they said, the bidders usually distance themselves from the government estimate. Yet here, four of the five bidders clustered around the estimate, "as if they are afraid of rejection of the bid," they said. The contract would be awarded to the highest bidder of these four.

Early on, a group of bidders, claiming the blessings of top government officials, approached the other bidders and "tried to pressure them to withdraw their bids and negotiate" the bidding. The project, they said, was "meant to raise funds for the coming elections."

Rebuffed, the group prevailed on the PIAC to postpone the bidding from Jan. 20 to Feb. 5 and then from Feb. 5 to Feb. 11, although there were no compelling reasons for the postponements.

During the bidding, the favored bidder submitted the highest bid. So how would it get the award when the law says the contract should be awarded to the lowest bidder?

No problem. It was would be found, "by hook or by crook," to disqualify the other bidders on some technicality, they said. On the other hand, the disqualification of the favored bidder would be overlooked. Never mind if the government stands to lose more than half a billion pesos. The group stands to benefit by that much.

The lowest bidder complained to the oil cartel not because he wants the contract to be awarded to him but because the laws already prohibit the awarding of contracts at this time, with the election so near, and the administration due to step down to three months. "Midnight contract" we can't be said.

That is correct, any government contract awarded now—that is, the midnight appointments, midnight deals and midnight appointees—is void and will not stand scrutiny. Not until after the elections and the new administration takes over.

• • •

Agrarian Reform Secretary Nasser Pangandaman sent a letter to this column explaining his role in the land conversion order in Iloilo that allowed Sen. Manuel Villar's real estate company to transform integrated rice fields into a residential subdivision, which is prohibited by law (it had been revealed that Pangandaman had signed the conversion order that his predecessor refused to sign).

"I would like to point out that an application for a land conversion, covering a certain landholding for non-agricultural uses, is primarily motivated and facilitated pursuant to the conditions set forth in the DAR Administrative Order No. 1, series of 2002, otherwise known as the Omnibus Administrative Rules on Land Use Conversion," he wrote.

"It is not an all-DAR affair, but a collective effort among local government units (LGUs), the Land Use and Regulatory Board (LURB), the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), and the Department of Agriculture (DA), since an application would have, but not limited, to assess a number of documents from these agencies before the DAR could act on his/her application.

"The LGU is responsible for reclassifying the land from agricultural to other uses, the LURB for approving it, the DENR for the EIC, DENR for issuing environmental compliance certificate and the DA for certifying that no agricultural activity is going on and that it is the only remaining land productive from areas in the vicinity.

"It is done this way on purpose—to ensure that no single agency would have an exclusive say on an issue as critical as converting an agricultural land to other uses, if only as you pointed out in the case at hand, to safeguard food production.

"Records show that land conversion orders, particularly to that extent, have been issued covering several parcels of land, as early as 1995.

"This goes to show that the areas mentioned in your column had long been developed, converted and titled to the LGU and DAR. I must add that this is not to pass the blame to any previous managers but to point out the reality on hand (as in the country)."

Blast from the past

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros

CORY SEEMS WANTED TO BECOME PRESIDENT.

She never wanted to be the presidential candidate. When the idea was first launched to her after Parliament Marcos challenged his enemies to a snap election, she balked at it. She pointed to everybody else as the best man for the job. And Jim Lumbo was more than ready—indeed eager...to do it. But at the end of the day, or all, not a long conversation to decide it, the vote was unanimous. The best man for the job was a woman.

She had no choice but to accept it. After she did, however, she plunged into it heart and soul.

Still, Cory never campaigned to become president.

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Still, Cory never campaigned to become president.

From the start she knew she was just a "provisional." She knew she was a symbol. Marcos tried to capitalize on it by saying she was "waking alert." She responded by saying that was enough: she had no experience appraising the matter. She had no experience lying, cheating and stealing. And she had no experience killing. It was not a question of competence, though because you got during the opposite of lying, cheating and stealing, not to speak of murdering, which was to tell the truth, to do the right thing and to respect other people's property, not to mention their lives, in equal proportions. But more than that, it was a question of trust. Would you trust someone who promised honors and gave hell, or someone who promised only by her existence, by her life, by every story that you were not alone, hook for you, she, she too know what it meant to be oppressed?

The first time I saw her she would looked at Cory, or looked up to Cory, that was when she announced her candidacy at the Luneta. She was not an orator by any means, but eloquence is a tricky thing. It often goes by strange and unsuited routes. I was driving slowly through Quezon Avenue, and I swear the place looked like the sort of thing you see in the provinces at Angelus, when the church bells chimed at o'clock p.m. and everyone bent in their tracks.

in silent prayer or reflection. Everyone was still or dotted in the darkness while Cory's voice echoed through the collective hooting of every TV and radio turned on to her speech—in the hotels as it was bugle-boot, too, it's small, the host where light and darkness fought each other, or came together like lovers.

And from the start, Cory knew she was not fighting an election, she was fighting a fight whose stakes were higher, whose issues were grander, whose consequences were starker. The world did not want to be reminded of the last. The election was subverted in by Marcos's thugs chasing dozen Evelio Javier from the cupola of Antique and gunning him down in the full in the midst of a drop. It was found daylight in plain view of the public. The public responded by burying him the same way they did Ninoy Aquino, and the same way they would Cory, rumbling out of their houses like a flood or cataclysm. And it was the dispersal and the fear of rumors in the main woman they wanted to depict.

There was no small amount of reminders as well for the fact that the snap election was no ordinary election, it's was an election at all. The last had occurred in 1969 when the same thugs had boycotted the 1978 elections in the certainty that Marcos would cheat massively and report no result other than that he won. It had been to before, they said, it would be so again. There has more: there was the Comelec to guarantee the wrong person won. There was to vote? There were the generals to guarantee it was not himself.

So many Cory Janes: Cardinal Sin, Pope Bishop, the human rights lawyers, the campaigners, the NAMFREL, the Yellow Brigade, the nuns and priests, the activists, the urban poor, the workers, the farmers, the housewives, the ordinary folk—the people who would soon turn into the knowing nuns called Edsa...never was there to win an election, they were there to win a world for their children. They were there to end a regime that had ground the country to loot, that had stolen not just the people's wealth but the people's lives, the people's hope, the people's future. They were there to fight a cancer rather than cure the darkness.

And the people responded with an unerring rate to a leg, in a true lost in a desert to set on. On wrongly Metro Manila turned into tens of yellow people pinning yellow ribbons on trees and posts while the activists came out in the dead of night in lightning vans to post their proclamations on walls. Overnight, the sight was with song. Marcos regaling the world with "imagelets" Charisse of Fire" Jose Sampaio, I never, longer recall his famous composition, without associating it with Marcos) while Cory let loose the sobbing sounds of "Ayan Ka, Inday Ko, Sandalan sa Buhay" and the soaring drama of making the impossible dream possible. Tony "I'm a Yellow Ribbon," wrong that ten-strike any American singer, somehow sounded inspiring.

It was the snap elections of course that provoked Edsa. I'd go further and say that it set off the revolution that was Edsa. That is why the ensuing months in the line, the snap elections created the line that led to the powder keg in the heart of a ravaged land. I'd go even further and say it not only ignited Edsa, it was the song and Edsa, young and old, rich and poor, strong and weak, coming out of their homes transcending themselves, dreaming the impossible dream. The one that took place there weeks later was merely its culmination. Officially, Cory did not win the snap elections, though there is the walkout of the disgusted Namfrel volunteers during the count to cry collaborate. So did not Jim for the hustings, and so did not Ninoy.

There's a lesson there worth learning. Cory never wanted to become president and never fought to become president.

That was how she became so.

Will reality TV decide the election?

SINCE REALITY TV WITH A STRONG VOTING element (or voting drama) has dominated television viewing fare on both local and cable networks, political analysts have been studying their impact on political elections. In 2008, voting-themed reality shows made voting popularly debatable issues; however, election voter turnout did not dramatically increase. How will voting dramas influence Philippine elections?

Reality TV is popular, as opposed to celebrities, appearing in non-scripted situations based on familiar settings. Examined more closely, ordinary people are the reality TV frontrunners becoming stars. Some individuals possess extraordinary qualities that beguile viewers. They are either exceptionally humble or ugly and either exceptionally intelligent or dumb, thereby no consistent emotional crisis in recent settings.

The genre continues to feed people's hunger for celebrity. The difference is that audiences are given the opportunity to become celebrities in a flash (just by an outrageous audition). Moreover, through text messaging, viewers have the ability to change the life an election period.

Political analysts, however, have pointed out that reality TV has dazzled the paradoxes of democracy. Democracy loves popular sovereignty, but hates the popular. Democracy loves the people to celebrate the common man, but it provides opportunities for rebelling them as well. Its appeal lies in part in allowing viewers to feel good about themselves. In the end, they can change their lives (their idea) by voting it out for a price and comes at opportunity that they will not behave differently from the ones in the show.

Democracy takes voting as fundamental while individualistic tendencies are ineffectual. The emphasis on voting is actually not an increase in democratic participation, but a sign of the ever lessening democratic heart (citizens due to the presidency). Voting is the only way to be free, yet the forces of modern life (other citizens' rights and duties are submerged within this all too consuming passion for elections, to the detriment of other democratic duties, such as voting out against abuse and opportunism, movements of rights and organizing in between elections. Since a more active citizenry might hinder the efficiency of the state, governments, like ours, have encouraged greater apathy through its ideology of holiday economics.

Presidential elections remain crucial. The question in Pinoy television fare, especially the voting that goes on through text and the judging of talents both by experts (talent scouts) and ordinary citizens on talent shows (obviously the core genre of the electronic mediums), is "Who's popular?" It would be more instructive to think it wouldn't.

Reality TV has finally clarified that we choose between a democratic leader who is one of us (an ordinary person) and a leader who is someone who has exceptional abilities). Reality TV dreams people become men this winner does not have to be deserving or the one the judges/experts think should win. The one simply is popular, and does not deserve to win at all. In the end, what matters at the end the people chosen to be the one who gets the most (text) votes). We realize that Reality TV seems to celebrate the ordinary citizen, by pointing on camera people who shouldn't be there.

Philippine political experience demonstrates that the democratic leader has never been one of us. Whether Emilio Aguinaldo (who's the first president but lost the presidency to Apolinario Mabini, is it the case that we have a strong and popular stand especially when it comes to the presidency? For this reason, dangers of tantocratic have been limited against Estrada who is not only loved by the masses but seems to have a modicum of preference for the poor. Exceptionally of our presidents is probably merely based on belonging to the upper class: is the landowning class as in the case of Cory Aquino, or be ordinary class as in the case of Fidel Ramos, in the political class, as in the case of Gloria Arroyo.

Reality TV has also shown that the democratic leader is both one of us and better than us. In a the contestant man who stands out in the crowd, George W. Bush and Barack Obama are the personification of the voting drama too, both are ordinary and exceptional. Bush styled himself a humbling speaker to balance his being a Texan scion. Obama's appeal is that he is black man with a Harvard diploma and an intellectual star as some assume. Of our "presidentiables," Manny Villar and Senator Aquino II, the bill of being both ordinary and exceptional. Villar grew up among the urban poor and achieved success, and political legitimacy. Aquino is a member of a land-owning family and the doubtful son of a long-suffering saint of a president, first ousted by circumstances to enter politics. The other candidates have generated such rewards and plot-lumps but unfortunately fail in the area of being popular and common. (Erap is just too common without any visible exceptional qualities.)

The American electoral process allows people to have the ability to choose the leader. Filipino selection process in the party nominations as well as in the primaries. With a limited campaign period and a many party nomination process, much of a candidate's patterns (or lack thereof) is hid. Even though we have the ability to choose, we are denied in judging the general image of the candidate, who in a sense must already embody his platform.

If reality TV will influence the 2010 elections, that the people will choose somebody who has a legend and not merely a story to tell. But there is also the added element that the candidate must be somebody whose legend governs wisely, not just in the voting booth. To tell to somebody who believes the rules of the game, humbly listens to the advice of the judges, but is nonetheless in his own person. Most of all, he must be somebody who desperately wants to win.

Jonathan Mirot, a PhD from the Rockefeller University in Leuven (Belgium), teaches at the Ateneo de Manila School of Humanities.

Grassroots movements and electoral politics

IN RECENT YEARS, PHILIPPINE GRASSROOTS political movements have entered the arena of electoral politics, especially at the legislative body. Contending for even a share of the state's political power is not without its risks of co-discovering, dividing and subverting military social movements. In the process of this, the movement's change in limited (since still can be disappointing if not frustrating, as the present political system will only allow representation at the periphery. There are opportunities as well as challenges. For electoral forces can be damaging to grassroots organizing and may lull mass leaders into becoming aspiring politicians.

While the past Edsa 1 political terrain opened the door for the participation of people's organizations and their role in official governance, such as participation through the party-list system, the law also made people's organizations vulnerable to violent attacks by unofficial state armed forces. After the Edsa 1 uprising, hundreds of grassroots organizations have been assassinated while exercising their constitutional rights to free speech, to assemble and to organize. When elite control and domination over political power is threatened, the ruling class resorts to violence. People, this is not going to be allowed without the organized terror and violence by the army, police and hired mercenaries of those in power designed to protect the rich and powerful.

The history of the representation of cause-oriented mass movement surges and for the future unify mass-based sectors who have long sought a voice and representation in the elite-dominated halls of the Philippine Congress. How state power is structured, how it is used, and how it is wielded are shared, with representatives and leaders of mass movements.

But the hope is just in the electoral struggle per se. The real hope lies in deepening the processes of democratization, by strengthening what grassroots citizens' movements which can act as an effective countervailing force against the economic, political and military domination of the oligarchy. There is hope and optimism if we work hard enough toward sustaining an open though still limited political process, and widening this for greater democratic participation. Social movements should actively engage not only with the legislative and executive agencies but importantly, with local government units for strengthening and consolidation of grassroots political power. Links and unity and struggle with sectoral interests and professional groups, not just those based at the grassroots, should be established and firmed up.

The "new politics" advocated by grassroots movements should always be a principled one, and must maintain its high moral ground. It should never be guided by pragmatic and self-interested politicians and the parties of the elite, just to win power. It should not ride on the moment madness of the elite. It should show that it is the genuine people's alternative to the corrupt patronage politics of the elite.

Once in power, they will confront the same dilemma that faces all liberation and revolutionary movements that have preceded them in post-colonial or socialist states. The emergence in Latin America of progressive governments, such as Venezuela and Uruguay, provides ample lessons for grassroots movement-seeking control of various strata of state power. Diversity with other forces of social change should never be excluded as a result of the hubris in a sense of strength or top consciousness and initiative.

When people's movements campaign for radical social change through their candidates, radical politics should never be watered down in its struggle for a just and humane society. The fight for meaningful social change must be advocated among the people, especially the working people long dominated, divided and manipulated by the oligarchy. Thus, the agenda and program for radical social change must never be watered down or compromised in exchange for present-day bureaucrats for international development agencies like "good governance" and "civil society" it is unsatisfactory to cooptation toward an "acceptable reformism."

There are grave perils to the electoral and social turmoil road to change. State power and the political system could become a means to defuse the militancy of the people's movements by making too many concessions to other social classes. Existing elites not in power or those hesitant to go to hold on to power. Embarking on compromises with elite factions that could dissolve grassroots movements. There is always a political risk in any true take in taking the electoral road to power and social change, that not necessarily so.

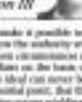
The role of the grassroots is not just to provide check and balance in the state or to share power. It is to mobilize its constituency, and may result in a divided grassroots movement.

The tasks of all progressives is to unify the diverse forces behind a coherent program and point out movement aimed at eventually taking state power. All people's movements are engaged in a struggle for political power, but they must make a difference, step by step. International development agencies with "civil society" and NGOs to become vehicles for controlled social change, by channeling their energies away from social struggles and into electoral channels, thus weakening or breaking up grassroots movements. Real power is not in state power. Real power is in grassroots movements seeking to wrest control of social relations and institutions from the elite. But the aim should still be focused on establishing and maintaining a decent and caring society for the vast majority of the people. The lives of the majority must be changed and transformed.

Otherwise, what would it all for?

Roland G. Simbulan, a professor in Development Studies and Public Management at the University of the Philippines.

The promise



THE LONG VIEW

Manuel L. Quezon III

TIRED? EASTER ASK WRITING IN THE NEW York Times Review of Books, recounted violence revolutions with people power (or velvet revolution, in the Eastern European sense) in the way: "In old-style revolution, the angry masses on the street are incited up by extremist revolutionary leaders—Lenin, Bolsheviks, Mao—to support radicalization, including violence and terror, in the name of utopia. ... In these velvet revolutions, masses is on the street on those to bring the peaceful elites to the negotiating table. The moment of maximum mass mobilization is the moment of mass exasperation; that is, to compromise... For also those science (Oldest Revolution) in that it often takes a long time to succeed. Velvet revolutions are usually the course of which opposition organizers, but also some of those in power, learn from their own mistakes and failures—as, by example, in Poland, Serbia and Ukraine. Protestors fail again, fail harder, to adopt General Booker's memorable phrasing. Both sides do it. Even when they succeed, they are rarely the most astute rulers when they come to power."

This, as Ash puts its by way of Prime Gollnov, comes at a price— "the price of velvet," because revolution is negotiated, there is no such thing as a velvet—take-all situation where the losers, before leaving the stage, are forced to sign away their privileges—what Ash calls a "post-revolutionary pathology". So the start go by, there is a sense of a missing revolutionary catharsis, suppressed talk of treachery deals concluded between old and new elites behind closed doors; and, among many, a feeling of the revolution betrayed. Ash's prescription: two antidotes to this: in the first place, a Truth Commission on the South African model, where responsibility and blame can be assigned, and admitted; and, second, the rule of law must be put in place or restored, with the authorities and the courts independent of the will of the rulers.

Frederich Hayek defined the rule of law as follows in 1960: "Stripped of all technicalities, [the rule of law] means that government in all its actions is bound by rules fixed and announced before-hand—rules which make it possible to foresee with fair certainty how the authority will use its coercive powers in given circumstances and to plan one's individual affairs on the basis of that knowledge. Though this ideal can never be perfectly achieved... the essential point, that the discretion left to the executive organs wielding coercive power should be reduced as much as possible in these enough."

If you consider the times people have taken to demonstrating against opposition to the short ones—starter in 2001, from 2001 onwards against the present administration, and against various proposals to amend the Constitution for self-interested reasons—after they had in common was disgust over official impunity with its corresponding disregard for the rule of law, it is clear that people have afford hurts in positions of authority during the ousted last years, the most sustained period of impunity in living memory proved the most likely to inherit to public upheaval, if only by they time.

Much to dear Shannen's frustration, some people rallied against proposals to extend Edsi's martial law declaration, and abandoned. Although in this day Manasse is convinced they could have won a plebiscite. In 2001, President Estrada did everything by the Marcos playbook: first, in response to protests he organized a huge counter rally; then he submitted to constitutional procedures (and lost); he could assume power, then he proposed a snap election and tried to buy time to rally support from the provinces. When he finally left the Palace, he refused to formally resign, and declared to go into exile. The action four months later proved just how dangerous it might have been had Marcos stayed in the country in 1986.

But what is important is the continuity of attitude of the Marcos era veterans with the methods of the present dispensation. What increasingly relied on the same methods: divide the deny, divide the opposition, play off urban versus rural, monitor both in opposition to a cowed bureaucracy and compromised judiciary, all the while using the military and police as the ultimate bet, both to the streets and in terms of populating government with persons who've developed a taste for political power, blurring the lines between civilian and military authority and, finally, not to interfere with

LETTERS

Will candidates remember the promises they made?

SEN. NOYNOY AQUINO, SOON TO GIVE up his Senate seat in favor of his presidential campaign as a basic lawmaker, good and evil. It's also about substantive change, he says, especially a change from failed traditional politics to good governance.

"Our platform, our solution to communication to the problems our countrymen are having." It's imperative to change governance and society as a whole, he emphasizes. "I want to make democracy work not only for the rich and the well-connected but also for everyone."

But, Manny Villar believes his recent success in his country which is now into the fresh poverty to become one of the country's top 10 wealthiest with assets worth P35 billion, has given him the "experience and capital" needed to achieve his ultimate dream: "To get this monkey on the back of poverty."

"But all that I have achieved would be nothing if, at the end of my public life, I would not have been able to transform my countrymen into the nation of our people," says Villar.

Joseph Estrada claims, on several occasion, he's not in it for personal vindication but only to repay a debt of gratitude to the masses that supported him during his six-year imprisonment. "Everything else seems point to my life, the poor cannot abandon me."

To repay the poor, Estrada wants to turn the Philippines into another Hitler, a city where the poor receive copious social services, including free health care and education.

Gilbert Teodoro's idea is a peaceful (despite society) built on the rule of law that enables every citizen to pursue his dream and realize each citizen his due. The protection of human rights and the family will take center stage under Teodoro, who last served in government as secretary of national defense. He also says he would fight poverty in all its forms. "And to ensure our citizens the exercise of human rights, together, as a nation, we shall address the base issues of poverty: poverty of the mind, poverty of the pocket, poverty of the environment and poverty of relationships."

One must hope that whoever among these four men ascends to Malacañang will remember the promises he made during the campaign. Campaign promises rarely go unsaid to be more personal, more heartfelt—and perhaps more truthful—since candidates are poised to champion ideals that matter their passions.

So, it's easy for Noynoy to say he wants fundamental changes; for Villar to lull back on his ways as a benevolent in his promise to restore the economy; for Estrada to thank the poor for their bravery, and for Teodoro to vow he'll fight for the law. The issues they champion reflect their deepest convictions, and are not just public relations gimmicks.

The winner among them must keep their campaign promises. But should the new president have lunatic conspiracies in his portfolio for whatever reason, he or she must uphold the simplest of all vows: "I shall fail you!"

—ART VILLASENOR,
artvillasen@yahoo.com

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Oppose privatization of the 'last dam standing'

MY ATTENTION WAS CAUGHT BY THE news report that the Metropolitan Water and Sewerage System would do low-cost water from the Angat Dam multipurpose dam in the province of the El Niño phenomenon. The target Dam, built and made operational between 1967 and 1968, supplies 97 percents of Metro Manila's water requirements, aside from being the main source of water for fishcan and some parts of Luzon.

From other reports, I read that Angat Dam is now for sale. And this is why, last recently, some local officials of Bulacan and the National Power Corp. (Napocor)'s Inspector of Angat Dam have allegedly been threatened to be fired—here is even the assurance that the dam will last for another 60 years. Are we being taken for a ride here again?

In one report, an official of the Commission on Human Rights was quoted as saying that the sale of Angat Dam does not mean abandonment of the water by any private corporation since government is mandated by the Electric Power Industry Reform Act (Epira) to preserve water for household consumption and irrigation. Every time a government-owned facility is being privatized, we hear this same line: the consumers will be protected and, more especially water will be improved and there will be better service. But that is not what is happening with Metro Manila residents experiencing the rising costs of water and electricity after privatization.

Now again, a source of potable water will be given to another private firm which is already a water service concessionaire. This will lead to another monopoly.

As mandated by the Epira, the government's generation plants should be privatized up to 70 percent to give way to the implementation of open access and total competition in the electricity generation industry. Angat Dam, which also supplies water to a hydroelectric plant, is the last remaining dam owned and operated by Napocor. The Angat Reservoir is the only facility of Napocor that supplies water to the National Capital Region. It is the last dam standing. The rate of this asset thru growing opposition because it, in effect, would mean over the lifeblood of the country's struggle to grant to a private corporation. Are we going to allow this?

I have on the genuine Tropical Storm "Ondoy" and Typhoon "Pepeng" and the deaths and destruction they caused and made worse by the mismanagement of protected dams? We must be vigilant and support the opposition to the impending privatization of Angat Dam, not to see allow the sale of Angat Dam, the government's "last dam standing," to take real demand to the benefit of only a few "corpo-rats." I hope that our presidential aspirants will reiterate commitment to government-owned, -controlled or -managed.

—HERCH SAN JUAN,
sanjuan0902@yahoo.com.ph

GSIS unfair in removing survivorship benefits

I WROTE GSIS PRESIDENT WINSTON S. Garcia (Jan. 4) regarding the removal of the survivorship benefit for spouses who are gainfully employed or have other sources of income. I still hold that as of this date, I was receiving a survivor's monthly pension of P1,414.21 after deduction of a discontinued revolving fund, and P1,099.31 as a government retiree, after insurance given during the previous GSIS administration. However, these two monthly pensions are not enough to pay for my hospitalization, maintenance medicines, vitamins and supplements. Food, with which I must be carefully selective because of my allergies.

Under Garcia's leadership, the GSIS has been "penning" the yearly increase in the retirees' pensions—from 10 percent to 5 percent to 3.5 percent. In November 2009, the GSIS prohibited further increases in the survivorship benefit and stopped the giving of cash gifts to survivors. But GSIS insists to be misinformed because it is of Republic Act 9257 (Expanded Senior Citizen's Act) which states, as follows: "Retirement benefits of retirees from both government and private service shall be regularly reviewed to ensure that it maintains responsiveness and sustainability and so he retains pensionable and feasible, shall be upgraded to be at par with the current scale enjoyed by those in actual service."

And since the GSIS is about to remove the survivorship benefits for spouses who have other sources of income, in a press release by GSIS issued on Oct. 16, 2009, it said it would "start (March 2010) suspending the monthly benefits of the spouses of deceased pensioners who are found to be gainfully employed or have other sources of income." Even the small retirement pension I am receiving, which is not enough to pay for my monthly needs and even falls below the country's poverty line, am I considered gainfully employed and not qualified?

Also, in my letter to Garcia, I told him that up to the time of writing (Jan. 4, 2010), I had yet received the cash gift, the 13th month "pay" or whatever is to called, and my survivorship benefits for the months of November and December 2009.

—HERMINIO T. MONTES,
750-B Bulacan,
Iloilo, Cebu City

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Assistant Editor Tony Bengcolo

Across the NATION

Farmers turn to root crops, veggies

By Nestor P. Burgos Jr., Inquirer Visayas
and Juan Escandor Jr., Inquirer Southern Luzon

SAN REMIGIO, ANTIQUE—RAMON RIOBACA cringed at the scorching mid-day heat and muttered how many pails of water he has to fetch to water his vegetable plants.

"I need at least seven pails of water morning and afternoon to water them, hoping that they will survive," the 60-year-old farmer said.

Like most of the 800 residents of Barangay Vilvar in San Remigio town in Antique, 21 km northeast of the capital town of San Jose, Riobaca has been struggling to cope with the prolonged dry season that has destroyed crops and rendered farms resident-unfriendly.

"It has not rained here since December last year and our wells and rivers are drying up," he said.

But Riobaca remembered that it was not the lack of water but too much of it that also destroyed crops and farmlands in the village three years ago.

"That was my land for seeds, long man left of it," he said as he pursued towards the Silution River, Antique's main tributary.

The river overflowed and flooded the village due to the heavy and continuous rains brought by Typhoon "Frank" in June 2008.

The flood destroyed at least 18 hectares and ensured 80 percent of crops, said Vilvar village chief Carlos Echiem Bertino.

Riobaca's 1.5-hectare farm was among those destroyed and now not arable. He now farms at the land of his son near the barangay proper.

Barangay said residents have resorted to planting corn, root crops and vegetables because these have more chances of survival during the drought.

"We will any samples to see our line too," he said.

The Department of Agriculture (DA) in Western Visayas said the drought has affected at least 30,000 farmers in the region based on initial reports.

In a media briefing of a multi-agency task force on Friday, DA regional director Larry Montevirgen said farms in the production has reached around P635 million. The damage and losses were expected to go higher because complete reports from Capiz and Aklan provinces, among those with the most vulnerable areas, have yet to come in.

Montevirgen said 42,000 ha of rice lands in the region remained threatened by below-normal rainfall. At least 31,000 ha of these have been confirmed to be affected by El Niño with 13,021 ha beyond recovery and another 11,268 ha damaged.

Destruction

Montevirgen said the destruction and damage to crops would lower by 10.68 percent the projected dry season rice production in the region of 681,000 metric tons.

Western Visayas has one of the biggest rice lands in country with 369,212 ha, more than half of which are rain-fed.

The dry spell has also affected areas planted with corn with with total losses in production reaching P2,758,424.

The DA in Western Visayas has requested for P190 million in final assistance to help affected farmers to temporarily shift to vegetables and root crops as alternative sources of income to offset the damage of the drought.

The mitigation program includes the distribution of seeds, livestock growing, vaccination for farm animals, insurance for crops, rehabilitation of irrigation systems and shallow tube wells.

But Antiquenia party-list Rep. Rahel Bitanco on Sunday said the government's mitigation measures are not enough to address the farmers' situation. She called on the government to fully subsidize farm production and demanded for a comprehensive plan to cushion the drought's impact on farmers.

"Farmers have yet to recover from the enormous losses brought by the typhoons during the last cropping. This cropping season, our farmers again face another calamity," Matuto said in a statement.

"It is only just and reasonable for the government to fully subsidize our farmers and fund production," he said.

Matuto said the government should extend full subsidy for areas that can still be saved or have minimal damage especially in the production of rice, corn, vegetable, fisheries and livestock.

The subsidy should include water pumps, seeds, fertilizers, credit and marketing support, Matuto said.

Dialogue

In Naga City, crop researchers advised the government and the private sector to hold a dialogue to discuss how they could cope with the dry spell.

Dr. Manuel Carlos, president of the Philippine Veterinary Medical Association (PVMA), Friday told the business that the dialogue must resolve ways to save crop production to avoid a chain reaction that would lead to a scarcity of food supply.

Carlos, who was here for the association's 59th convention from Feb. 17-19, said the livestock industry is heavily dependent on crops for the supply of meat.

He said a shortage of corn and other crops used in feed production would cause the dwindling supply of pork and chicken that could lead to rampant price.

Carlos said hogs and chickens are very sensitive to heat, which would cause stress and intense their susceptibility to viral diseases.

He advised that the animals be provided with clean water and innovative ways to prevent the accumulation of wastes to prevent the multiplication of microorganisms and parasites.

He said a less navigating area exist in poultry farms during the hottest time of the day consists of putting wet sheetlike materials on the floor of pens.

He said supplemental vitamins would help animals to bear the heat and lessen their stress.

Carlos said that in big farms, pregnant hogs are even housed in air-conditioned pens.

FLOODED: In San Marcelino town, Zambales, trees submerge what is left of their rice crops after the soil dried up because of intense heat and lack of irrigation water supply in the area.

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El Niño 2010 'not the worst'

By Jeannette I. Andrade

THE CURRENT EL NIÑO PHENOMENON in the country is not the worst.

The Philippine Atmospheric Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (Pagasa) dispelled yesterday the public's apprehension over the destructive effect of the El Niño phenomenon now felt in the country.

In yesterday's Pulong sa Tinapay forum in Manila, Pagasa weather forecaster Gemma Narisma said the country is now experiencing is not as severe as what we suffered from 1997 to 1998, which he described as the "strongest" in recent history because it affected the whole country.

He pointed out that what we are experiencing is categorized as "moderate to strong" El Niño, which will last until the middle of the year.

He identified the provinces of Cagayan Valley and Isabela as some of the areas hardest hit by the phenomenon. Other provinces include Benguet, Batanes, Ilocos, Nueva Vizcaya, Mount Pinatubo, Bataan, Zambales, Pampanga, Batangas, Iloilo, Guimaras, Antique, Negros Occidental and Capiz.

Nilo stressed that there would be a 60 percent to 65 percent reduction in rainfall as an effect of the phenomenon.

Verdict surprises Erap associate

DAMBANANGA CITY—(UPDATED) Pilipino Bandesmanisic Lejong Wee on Saturday broke his silence to react to a court verdict that declared him guilty of smuggling in connection with the undocumented entry to the country of illegal chemicals in 2000.

"I was really shocked. I was speechless when the court was reading the verdict. I didn't expect this decision," Wee said.

The decision was handed down Friday by Judge Teodoro la dela Peña of the Regional Trial Court Branch 12 here.

Dela Peña also found Tommy Lim and Mahmoud Inamoonoon Tan Sga Pee guilty.

The three were ordered jailed for 20 years in violation of Section 113 of Republic Act No. 6969 or the Toxic Substances, Hazardous and Nuclear Wastes Control Act, and 8 to 12 years for violating the Tariffs and Customs Code "for unlawful importation of smuggling of chemicals."

He said he would appeal the court decision.

"We are confident that the law will be on our side. All these years, we maintained our innocence and continue to do so. We maintain our faith in our judicial system," he said.

Wee said his conservation arose all solved by then justice secretary Secretary Jesse Robredo, who later became interior secretary before he died in a plane crash in August 2010.

"I have just politics. I have someone wants to destroy me, I just cannot elaborate (more) here," he said.

City Vice Mayor Marietta Dalipe said he too was shocked by the court's decision.

"(The case) has been (dragging) for 10 almost years already and it was really surprising the same same sun at the height of the election period. Wee, as far as I know, is a good citizen," he said. *Julie Alipala, Inquirer Mindanao*

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NEWSBRIEFS

■ PALAWAN

NPA rebels raid pearl farm

ARMED men believed to be members of the New People's Army (NPA) raided a pearl farm in Isla Vicente on Saturday morning and made away several firearms and communications equipment from police security forces guarding the establishment, initial police reports said.

Sources from the Palawan Provincial Police Office said 30 rebels led by a certain "Ka Tano" posed as military reservists then entered the pearl farm of Puerto San Vicente Pearl Corp. in Sandoy Island off the northernmost town of San Vicente at around 6 a.m. Saturday and immediately disarmed the local security forces. The rebels reportedly took from company guards several firearms, including two M-16 high-powered rifles, and communications equipment.

A combined unit of the PPPO and members of the Marine Battalion Landing Team 9 were dispatched to track down the rebels.

The Western Command had previously estimated the number of NPA insurgents in Palawan at less than 30, armed followers. *Antonnette C. Acosta, Inquirer Southern Luzon*

■ MAGUINDANAO CITY

Suspected goon held

THE JOINT Task Force Macharia (TFM) arrested a suspected member of a partisan armed group in a raid at his house in Barangay Jamiri Ilaya, Mitugtog, Maitabla, at around 2 a.m. Sunday, a Philippine Army official said.

The joint TFM composed of police and soldiers, raided the house of Cristito Solanda by virtue of a search warrant and confiscated two 9-mm bagsak submachine pistol with magazines, a 45-cal. pistol and several rounds of live ammunitions.

Lt. Col. Anthony Perugganan, the battalion commander of the 6th Infantry Battalion, said the TFM Macharia vow to this police will not be criminal nexus against him.

Joy M. Blasic, Inquirer Southern Luzon

■ LAGUNA CITY

Ex-mayor held

POLICE arrested a former mayor of Buenavista, Quezon, on a mobile checkpoint in Santa Maria in this municipality after his vehicle yielded a .40-cal. pistol.

Bacoor police chief Senior Supt. Simeon Ferrer Jr. Sunday said arrested was Ramon Reyes, scion of the late Don Domingo Reyes who owned a vast track of land in the Bondoc Peninsula area. Also held was a certain Alex Barrogaza, one of Reyes' bodyguards aboard his Toyota Revo Van.Barrogaza was held for a warrant for murder charge several years ago.

Reyes faces criminal charges for violation of the Comelec gun ban and indiscriminate of police. *Dante T. Mallari Jr., Inquirer Southern Luzon*

■ SAN JOSE DEL CITY

New bishop named

THE DIOCESE of Malay-balay (Bukidnon) will have a new bishop following the appointment made by the Holy Father Pope Benedict XVI, which was announced Thursday in Manila by Archbishop Edward Joseph Adams. Papal Nuncio to Philippines.

It read that the Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines said Fr. Jose Ariosto Estabillo is the newly-elected bishop of Malaybalay in Bukidnon province.

Estabillo, Father Jos as he is fondly called, succeeded Bishop Emeritus Bishop Honesto Pacana, whose resignation was accepted by the Holy Father, having reached the age limit of 75.

Romulo B. Pitoto, Inquirer Southern Luzon

■ CEBU CITY

Village watchman hurt

ARMED MEN shot an unarmed village watchman responding to a robbery alarm along Barangay Canduman Tuesday night.

Police reported that Reynaldo Quiñones was in critical condition and was brought to a hospital for treatment of a single bullet wound in his chest.

Quiñones and three other barangay watchmen were on patrol when they were informed that two had held up Dakota Romeo Hilosopak who was waiting at Juana Dumalla St.

The four immediately proceeded to the area and saw the two suspects.

Quiñones fired on one of the suspects but Bacalbar shot him once. Another watchman grabbed the second suspect but he let go when the gunman fired a shot at him, hitting the second suspect.

Chiel O. Krajcik, Inquirer Visayas

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Philippine Electricity Market Corporation

Call for Nominees to the WESM Governance Committees

The Philippine Electricity Market Corporation (PEMC) is accepting nominations for membership to the following Governance Committees of the Wholesale Electricity Spot Market (WESM):

- The **Rules Change Committee (RCC)** is tasked to assist the Department of Energy (DOE) in relation to the formulation and WESM Rules, market manuals, procedures and guidelines. Nominations are being solicited for the remaining **two** members who are independent of the electric power industry with level of technical or commercial knowledge and expertise in economics or Philippine law.
- The **Dispute Resolution Group (DRG)**, which acts as mediators or arbitrators for the resolution of issues and disputes arising between and among the Market Operator (MO), System Operator (SO), WESM members and prospective WESM members. Nominations are being solicited for the **eight** members who are independent of the electric power industry with experience in alternative dispute resolution practice and procedures, and sufficient experience in power systems engineering, wholesale electricity markets or financial or commodity markets.
- The **Technical Committee (TC)** provides expertise to the market in relation to information technology, metering, data and other technical matters. In the exercise of its functions, the TC may propose rule changes to improve the efficiency of the market as well as to attain WESM objectives. Nominations are being solicited for the remaining **one** member with expertise in the field of engineering, information technology and information system.
- The **FEM Audit Committee (FAC)**, which has direct supervision over the internal audit of all transactions of the WESM. Nominations are being solicited for the remaining **one** member who is independent of the electric power industry with sufficient and relevant experience in information technology and information system.
- The **Market Surveillance Committee (MSC)**, which is tasked to monitor and assess the trading activity of WESM trading participants in the market to ensure fair competition and compliance with the WESM rules. Nominations are being solicited for the remaining **two** members who are independent of the Philippine electric power industry and of the government with relevant experience in power system operations and competitive wholesale electricity markets or financial or commodity markets.

The aforementioned Committees will be directly involved in governing the operation of the electricity spot market.

To be eligible, nominees should be independent of the Philippine electricity industry ("Independent"). A person is deemed to be Independent, if such person:

(a) is not an employee, contractor, agent, manager, director, or shareholder directly or indirectly holding more than 5% the outstanding capital stock, of a WESM member;

(b) is not a relative, within the fourth civil degree of consanguinity or affinity, of an employee, contractor, agent, manager, director, or shareholder directly or indirectly holding more than 5% the outstanding capital stock, of a WESM member;

(c) is not an employee, contractor, agent, manager, director, or shareholder directly or indirectly holding more than 5% the outstanding capital stock, of a company, affiliate or any other entity related to or associated with a WESM Member, where:

(i) A related company or body is a parent or holding company of the WESM Member or a subsidiary or affiliate of the WESM Member or a subsidiary of a holding company of the WESM Member; and

(ii) An associate is a person who is a director, manager, or shareholder of the related company or entity or a relative of such person; or

(d) Has not been employed by any electric power industry participant, or a company or body related to or associated with a WESM Member, within one year prior to the appointment date.

Interested candidates must submit an accomplished Nomination Form and updated Curriculum Vitae to:

PEM Board Selection Committee
c/o Office of the Corporate Secretary
18/F Robinsons Equitable Tower, ADB Avenue
Ortigas Center, Pasig City

All candidates nominated to the relevant Committees will be shortlisted and evaluated in accordance with the qualification and disqualifications set forth in the Guidelines Governing the Constitution of the PEM Board Committees and based on the selection criteria agreed upon by the Board Selection Committee. Successful nominees are expected to dedicate sufficient time to participate in committee activities such as regular committee meetings and willing to undertake training program on the operations of the WESM and the role of trading committees.

For further information on the operations of the Philippine WESM and the functions of the governance committees, please refer to the WESM Rules and other pertinent documents posted in the WESM website (www.wesm.ph). You may also contact the Market Development Division at e-mail address mdg@wesm.ph or telephone numbers 895-2784/831-0734 loc. 351

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Kris suffers head injury from bad fall

From page A1

"This is if the test results say that's OK to leave. Right now, she still feels dizzy. She feels like she's in a boat sailing over choppy seas," Kris' friend said yesterday morning by phone. "Her doctor ordered her to rest in the hospital for a day."

Yesterday afternoon, Kris agreed in a phone interview aired on her show by talk show "The Buzz," which she hosts with Boy Abunda and Ruffa Gutierrez.

In a phone interview, Kris said she would be released from the hospital today after undergoing a final test with her neurologist.

She also announced that she would resume work on Wednesday.

Kris thanked her colleagues, friends and fans who prayed for her recovery.

"Everyone, please take care. Love you! Bleeded. Put a rubber mat on the shower floor so you don't slip and fall," she said.

On Friday at 2 a.m., Kris fell and hit her head after she slipped while taking a shower in the condominium unit in Tagaytay City where she and husband James Yap, sons Joshua and Bimby James were staying, according to the same source, who requested anonymity.

As a result of the fall, Kris sustained a bump on the lower left side of her head.

"James helped her get up. She said she made sure not to sleep for an hour after the incident," Kris' friend added.

"She was already feeling dizzy but she still ran some errands that day, until her doctor, whom she had been texting, said she should go to the hospital."

At the hospital, Kris' blood pressure shot up to 180/100, the friend said.

On Saturday night, the business executive received the following text message from Kris' assistant Alvin Gagui: "Ms. Kris got crashed and [illegible] immediate secondary to fall. She also had high blood pressure. She will be back to work on Wednesday. According to her doctor, she needs minimum of three days' rest."

Presidential candidate Sen. Benigno "Noynoy" Aquino III yesterday said his sister Kris was running and doing well after suffering a fall in their house on Friday.

The senator said his sister was back on a continuous and she was staying in the hospital as a precaution.

"The doctors forced her (Kris) to stay in the hospital," he said in a phone interview.

An accident

"It was no accident; she was taking a bath without any rubber mat on the floor. But she's OK," the senator said in a phone interview.

Kris went to the hospital after the complained of feeling dizzy, said the chairman of the Liberal Party in the May 10 presidential elections.

Noynoy said he already visited his sister on Saturday and reported that Kris was "OK" and "bored."

The Augusto TV host even gave his candidate input on his media campaign.

"She's not the biggest fan, to how I could improve our campaign. She also told me about donations she has been getting from supporters of our campaign," he said.

Noynoy said Kris, who helped campaign ahead his television ads, was also asking a lot of things about his presidential rallies.

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BDO

Erap tries tricycle tack

From page A1

cheaper "political vehicle" to try and convince the "masa" voters that he's still the better choice over other candidates running in the May 10 presidential race.

But the "Step 3G Erap," which swept him to the Palace in 1998, will be for them—except that it will now run in his hometown "Tanyolo-3G Erap."

Sen. Manny Villar has apparently been eating into Estrada's army of supporters by packaging himself as the new "champion of the poor," Cagayan De Oro Rep. Rufus Rodriguez, vice president of Estrada's Partido ng Masang Pilipino (PMP) said yesterday.

"We need to win them back," Rodriguez told the lawyers, referring to Claro C. and Claro D voters who had reportedly jumped over to Villar's camp.

"We need to bring back the 38 percent (of voters) he had in 1998. These were apparently the ones that Villar got because of his support for the impeachment (of VP Noli)."

To do that, Estrada will drive a tricycle to push home the idea that he has always been one of the masses, according to Rodriguez.

The congressman said the "Step 3G Erap"—a grassroots-based citizen's movement for "justice, economy, environment and peace"—would remain in operation to complement Estrada's new campaign symbol.

For the year's elections, Rodriguez said the movement would also involve "professionals, nonpoliticians and members of the middle class."

"I will be bipartisan (spirit of volunteerism) all over again," he said.

3M supporters

Estrada earlier acknowledged that it was getting more difficult for him to get campaign contributions partly because he was trailing in the surveys of presidential candidates.

"It's a little different (less than now. As you know, our economy's bad ... Even the businessmen are finding it difficult to help," he said.

The "Step 3G Erap" and "Erap's 3G Erap" campaign will involve a network of volunteers who will go around the country to convince voters to go for the former president, who was once convicted of plunder but later pardoned.

Rodriguez said both organizations could translate into around seven million supporters.

Plan to beat

The Estrada camp sees Villar as the "man to beat" in the race, owing to the senator's huge campaign kitty, which is reportedly around ₱1.9 billion.

"It's still Villar. Nobody can match him (in terms of campaign budget)," said Erap's Manila, Estrada's campaign strategist.

Maceda said his camp was "dissecting" Villar's campaign strategy as well as that of Sen. Benigno Aquino III, the candidate from nonpartisan, or he.

Maceda doubted if Aquino could maintain the lead with still more than two months to go before the elections.

By Rodriguez's admission, the revival of "Step 3G Erap" is directed at Villar's campaign.

"He's been trying to present himself as the champion of the poor and a number of times seem to be buying that," the congressman said. "But it's President Estrada who really is the champion of the poor and the public should be reminded of this."

Reef ball has ashes of RP worker

From page A1

His mother, Leticia, who had gathered the entire family for the occasion, called the event a "celebration of Jerome's life."

Tiqui's sister, Dr. Ineh Angeles, said: "[Jerome] used to say: 'When I die, I would like to be a reef ball so I can be with the fishes.'"

A Mass was held in Pampanga on the eve of the scenic.

Memorial bench

In New York, Tiqui's friends raised $7,500 (P346,000) toward a memorial bench, dedicated to the late UN worker.

The bench would be placed in Central Park, said Imelda Pangilinan, Tiqui's friend and colleague at the United Nations.

"It will be called Jerome's Bench. It will be the meeting place of his friends," she told the Inquirer over an Internet chat.

Another bench will be placed beside Jerome's Bench, this time dedicated to Tiqui's boss, Luis Carlos da Costa, deputy special representative to the UN secretary-general in the Haiti mission, Pangilinan added.

"The two benches will be placed side by side since Jerome and Mr. Da Costa worked together," she said. Yap worked for the United Nations for over 15 years.

'Kind, funny, helpful'

Pangilinan, an administrative assistant in the UN Development Program, said she received the Philippines to enter her grief because she had lost a true friend.

She said Yap was "very kind, funny and helpful" and "would never forget their last dinner together on Jan. 14 just before he left New York for Haiti."

Pangilinan said she had last four friends working with the international peace mission. Aside from Da Costa and Yap, Kai Bachhuber, a German, and Yusuf Hasdenbiga, a British national, also died in the Haiti quake.

The Inquirer learned that Yap's mother, a politician, was leaving for New York to attend the Feb. 27 memorial of the United Nations for her son.

Another memorial has been set on March 9 for the victims of UN workers who died in the Haiti quake.

Art section

Yap's friends in Prague, Czech Republic, held an art auction to raise money for earthquake victims in Haiti, said his sister Leah Ingeles.

His friends in Pampanga gathered together to remember the 40th day of Yap's death.

Erina Mendoza, his batch mate at the University of Santo Tomas, said Yap was the "brave soul that you can't help but cling to the world."

Ricky Abad said Yap had dinner with him and other close friends on Dec. 20. "He spent the holidays in the Philippines and he wasn't set [during the next]," he said.

Last dinner

Another friend, Josephat Martinez, said he was planning a memorial dinner for Yap on March 27.

He said he would invite the same friends, ask them to come in the same clothes they wore the last time they dined with Yap, and order the same meals.

Joselito Fuentes, Yap's high school buddy at San Beda Academy, said his friend bade him goodbye, saying: "This will be another long parting."

RELATIVES and friends of Jerome Yap send off his ashes in a reef ball that will be placed among the coral reefs in Hermosa, Bataan, in Bataan. | AMY RAZON

ANNOUNCEMENT

SOCIAL SECURITY SYSTEM

CIRCULAR NO. 2010-004

TO : ALL EMPLOYERS AND EMPLOYEES
SUBJECT : IMPLEMENTING RULES AND REGULATIONS OF THE SOCIAL SECURITY CONDONATION LAW OF 2009

Pursuant to Section 5 of Republic Act (R.A.) No. 9903, An Act Granting The Social Security System (SSS) A One-Time Authority To Condone Penalties On Unremitted Or Delinquent Contributions By Employers, also known as the "Social Security Condonation Law Of 2009," the Social Security Commission (SSC), under its Resolution No. 110-a (2010), dated 10 February 2010, hereby issues the rules and regulations for the effective implementation of the said Act:

SECTION 1. Definition of terms. — Unless the context or certain provision of this Circular clearly indicates otherwise, the term:

(a) "Program" refers to the Condonation Program as provided for under R.A. No. 9903;

(b) "Employer" refers to any person subject to compulsory coverage under Section 9(a) of R.A. No. 1161, as amended;

(c) "Contributions" refers to the amount to be paid to the SSS by and on behalf of the members in accordance with Section 18 of R.A. No. 1161, as amended;

(d) "Accrued penalty" refers to the unpaid three percent (3%) penalty imposed upon any delayed remittance of contribution in accordance with Section 22(a) of R.A. No. 1161, as amended.

SECTION 2. Who may avail of the Program. — Any employer who is delinquent or has not remitted all contributions due and payable to the SSS may avail of the Program, including the following:

(a) Those not yet registered with the SSS;

(b) Those with pending or approved proposal under the Installment Payment Scheme of the SSS (Circular No. 6-P) pursuant to SSC Resolution No. 380 dated 10 June 2002;

(c) Those with pending or approved application under the Program for Acceptance of Properties Offered Through Dacion En Pago of the SSS (Circular No. 6-P pursuant to SSC Resolution No. 29 dated 19 January 2002);

(d) Those with cases pending before the SSC, Courts or Office of the Prosecutor involving collection of contributions and/or penalties;

(e) Those against whom judgment had been rendered involving collection of contributions and/or penalties but have not complied with the judgment; and

(f) Those who, before the effectivity of the Act, have settled all contributions but with accrued penalty.

SECTION 3. Unregistered employers. — To qualify, an unregistered employer shall first register with the SSS Branch having jurisdiction over the place of business or household address and remit its contribution delinquency in full or submit an installment proposal under this Circular.

SECTION 4. Employers with pending or approved proposals under the Installment Payment Scheme Program. — In favor of the Program, an employer with pending or approved proposal to pay its delinquencies in installment shall remit its contribution delinquency in full or submit an installment proposal under this Circular.

Upon remittance of the contribution delinquency in full or submission of an installment proposal under this Circular, a pending or approved installment proposal shall be considered withdrawn. The submission of an installment proposal under this Circular shall have the effect of terminating an approved installment proposal, and the remaining post-dated checks received by SSS if any, shall be returned to the employer upon issuance by the latter of the post-dated checks required under this Circular.

SECTION 5. Employers with pending or approved applications under the Program For Acceptance Of Properties Offered Through Dacion En Pago. — In favor of the Program, an employer with pending or approved application for dacion en pago shall remit the contribution delinquency in full or submit an installment proposal under this Circular.

Upon remittance of the contribution delinquency in full or submission of an installment proposal by an employer under this Circular, a pending dacion en pago application shall be considered withdrawn. Further, the submission of an installment proposal by an employer under this Circular shall have the effect of cancelling an approved dacion en pago application if the title to the property is not yet transferred to the SSS.

SECTION 6. Employers with pending cases. — All cases pending before the SSC, Courts or Office of the Prosecutor involving collection of contributions and/or penalties shall be withdrawn upon approval of proposal without prejudice to the refiling of the same in the event the employer fails to remit in full the required delinquent contributions or defaults in the payment of any installment under the Program.

SECTION 7. Penalties covered under the Program. — This Circular shall apply only to accrued penalties on delinquent contributions due on or before February 1, 2010.

Penalties on contributions falling due thereafter shall not be covered by the Program but shall be paid as prescribed by law.

SECTION 8. Contributions paid before the effectivity of the Act. — For reason of equity, the accrued penalties of the following employers shall likewise be condoned or waived:

(a) Those who settled in full all their arrears in contributions before the effectivity of the Act; and

(b) Those who partially settled their arrears in contribution before the effectivity of the Act and pay the balance in full or in installment under the Program.

SECTION 9. Period of the Program. — An employer may avail of the Program within six (6) months from effectivity of the Act.

SECTION 10. Modes of availing the Program. — An employer may:

(a) Remit within the period of the Program the full amount of the delinquent contributions through any SSS Branch with banking facility or authorized collection agents of the SSS e.g. banks, payment centers; or

(b) Submit a proposal (Annex "A") within the period of the Program to pay the delinquent contributions in installment to the SSS Branch having jurisdiction over its place of business or household address. The proposal shall contain an undertaking that should the settlement of contributions through installment result in additional benefits for contingencies that have occurred prior to the date of settlement or shall occur within the installment period, the employer shall pay the SSS damages in accordance with the provisions of Section 24 of R.A. 1161, as amended.

In every case, the employer shall submit the corresponding Collection Lists together with the proofs of full remittance of its contribution delinquency or its proposal to pay such delinquency or installment.

SECTION 11. Installment proposal. — The Head of the SSS Branch to which the installment proposal was submitted shall give due course to approve and grant the same, subject to the following requirements:

(a) Upon submission of the proposal, the employer shall remit a downpayment of not less than five percent (5%) of its total contribution delinquency;

(b) Together with the proposal, the employer shall submit a duly notarized document (Annex "B") promising to pay the balance of the delinquency in equal monthly installments within a period not exceeding forty-eight (48) months, the first monthly installment of which shall fall due within thirty (30) days after date of approval of the proposal; and

(c) The installment payments shall bear an interest of three percent (3%) per annum based on the Amortization Factors for the Payment of Balances of Delinquent Contributions under Installment Proposal issued by the SSS (Annex "C").

If the employer is an association, partnership, corporation or any other institution, any of its present managing head, director or partner shall sign the proposal and the promissory note in his official capacity, attaching therewith a Secretary's Certificate in case of a corporation.

In case said employer has already been dissolved, any of its former managing head, director or partner shall sign the proposal and the promissory note.

Upon approval of the proposal, the employer shall issue, within five (5) working days from receipt of Notice of Approval (Annex "D"), the corresponding post-dated checks payable to the SSS to cover all monthly installments, and cause the management thereof within reasonable period whenever necessary as in the case of change of its authorized check signatory or closure of bank account.

The employer shall also remit its current contributions and member loan amortization every month as they fall due.

SECTION 12. Right to benefits of employees. — Should the settlement of contributions through full payment or installment result in additional benefits for contingencies that have occurred prior to the date of settlement or shall occur within the installment period, the employer shall pay the SSS damages in accordance with the provisions of Section 24 of R.A. 1161, as amended.

SECTION 13. Restoration of loan privileges. — Upon remittance in full of the delinquent contribution or approval of the installment proposal of the employer, the short-term loan privileges of its employees shall be restored: Provided, that the said employees comply with other requirements of their loan applications: provided further, that said privileges shall again be suspended in the event of violation of any of the terms and conditions set hereof.

SECTION 14. Grounds for termination of approved installment proposal. — Any of the following omissions or acts by the employer shall be a ground for termination of the approved installment proposal:

(a) Failure to issue the required post-dated checks;

(b) Failure to remit current contributions and member loan amortization;

(c) Default in the payment of any installment under the approved proposal;

(d) Refusal to pay the damages as provided for under Section 24 of R.A. 1161, as amended; or

(e) Violation of any of the terms and condition of the approved installment proposal.

Upon termination of the approved installment proposal, the penalties are deemed reimposed from the time the contributions first became due, to accrue until the delinquent account is paid in full.

SECTION 15. When are penalties condoned. — The penalty provided under Section 22 (a-c) of R.A. No. 1161, as amended, shall be condoned by virtue of R.A. No. 9903 when and only when all the delinquent contributions are remitted by the employer to the SSS.

SECTION 16. Other delinquency payment programs. — The accrued penalty of an employer who opts to settle its contribution delinquency under a different program outside the coverage of R.A. No. 9903 and/or its implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR), shall not be condoned or waived.

SECTION 17. Repealing clause. — All other Circulars, rules and regulations, and other issuances or parts thereof which are inconsistent with the provisions of this Circular are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

SECTION 18. Effectivity. — This Circular shall take effect immediately.

ROBERTO L. NERI
President and CEO

Approved by:

THE SOCIAL SECURITY COMMISSION

THELMA Y. CUNANAN

February 18, 2010

No security marks on ballots for ARMM

From page A1

The NPO employee said there was a plan to put NPO markings, but the machines encountered problems at the start of the printing for the ARMM ballots.

Since Smartmatic-TIM Corp., the supplier of the automated counting machines, was pressed for time, it could not wish to redesign or reject the security marks, she added.

The NPO employee noted that the votes printed after the ARMM batch, the 8.5-inch by 25-inch ballots that will be used for the rest of the country, were given NPO marks. (The ARMM has 1,751,599 voters, or 2.4 percent of the country's total of 58,723,734 million registered voters.)

The source explained that all official materials that leave the NPO building bear Edsa and NBA Scottsdale Road in Dillmar, Dowdon (DD) should there be the agency's security features so that the NPO would be able to authenticate its own products when it is called investigated on.

The ballots for the ARMM elections were printed from Feb. 7 to Feb. 11, another source said.

Cruz said he received the same report from a Comelec source. "They probably announced the printing of 1.7 million ballots for Mindanao in case of early elections in the ARMM. But the ballots lacked security markings: dots, stars, specially they are number," he said.

Dilon, who said he had met with NPO sources, confirmed the report. He said the ballots for the ARMM only have the markings of the Comelec and Smartmatic-TIM Corp.

NPO chief clueless

But NPO Director General Bernardo Ebon said he did not know of such reports. According to him, all questions about the printing should be directed to the Comelec.

"Everything about the printing, you should ask the Comelec. That's the rules given to us," Ebon said in a phone interview.

Comelec Chair Jose Melo confirmed that there were problems with the placement of NPO marks.

But those were ironed out, he said, when Smartmatic-TIM agreed to put security signs on the ballots. Because of alignment problems, however, the marks will not be read by the machines, Melo said.

The Inquirer called Smartmatic-TIM, but company officials could not be reached.

Unlike in past elections, 10 spare votes exist here to serve as backups in case of machine breakdowns. Voters will have to write down the names of their chosen candidates in the blank spaces on the ballot paper supplied by the NPO.

Because of the automated balloting, voters will cast their votes for national and local posts by shading the oval space beside the candidate's name on the ballot. The ballot will be fed into a Precinct Count Optical Scan machine that will record and count the votes.

Another source, a former NPO official who also declined to be identified for security reasons, corroborated the statements of the two persons.

NPO staff apprehensive

He said NPO employees were still unaware of the lack of security marks on the ballots for the ARMM.

"Some NPO employees were afraid because of this," the source added.

Both the source and Cruz noted that Smartmatic-TIM did not favor in the NPO marks in the contract it won from the Comelec.

The company, he noted, warned the NPO to pay P1 per ballot to have the agency's security features printed.

The source noted that the ballots for the ARMM had been packed and ready for shipping.

Easy to duplicate

With less than three months before the elections, the poll watchdogs said they were concerned about the news from the NPO, saying it could be used to easily duplicate the ballots.

The source, a printing expert, said it would be easy to duplicate the ballots, saying that the markings were "weak."

For one, the paper used did not have embedded security marks of the Smartmatic-TIM and the Comelec. For another, the bar code could not be used as a reliable security tool because it is mostly used for sorting and tracking the ballots.

The former NPO official said that anyone with the right printers and paper could make copies of the ballots. The source also raised the security issue inside the plant.

It would be easy for anyone to pick a ballot, hide it, and sell it to the highest bidder, he said.

Election observers said the Comelec and Smartmatic-TIM should come clean about the fate of the ballots, saying the mistake was a "red flag" and does nothing to assuage fears that the automated elections are geared for failure.

"Where are the ballots now? Were they seized, delivered, or shredded? And what are the security marks? Are these approved by the NPO?" the source said.

"Why was there a mistake in printing? It's too gross a mistake. There must be a purpose," Cruz said.

Banned in public

"These 1.7 million ballots should be banned in public and should be shown in public. They could be used for other purposes," he added.

The former NPO official said the fraud that he witnessed in Lanao del Sur during the ARMM elections in 2005 could happen again on May 10.

"They photocopied the ballots using high quality paper. This is what they gave to the voters and subsidized them. The corrupt Bids Board of elections inspectors) hid the real ballots and filled these up and let them vote," the source said.

"They are laying the groundwork for extending anomalies."

NPA sells campaign permits

From page A1

ing in campaign" (PTC) and "permit to win" (PTW) cards were handed out on Friday in the areas of Bukidnon and was killed in an encounter in Barangay Mayasumas, Lantapan, Cabanglasan, Cabanglasan said.

The cards are now being attacked "to discourage the entry of candidates who have provided support to the rebels," he said.

Cabanglasan said the PTC and PTW cards had been retrieved along with firearms from the battle site.

Color-coded permits

Authorities earlier urged politicians to refrain from paying protection money to the NPA, which could lead to their disqualification.

The cost of the color-coded permits charged local candidates depend on the position they are running for, with one candidate for a congressional seat reportedly charged as much as P2.2 million, Cabanglasan said.

"We still have to know the other terms though," he said.

The officer did not reveal the name of the candidate. It was not possible to independently verify the reports.

Cabanglasan said the cards, along with antigovernment documents, were taken from the backpack of the slain rebel, identified only as Ka Leo, the alleged leader of the Sparrow Unit, police said.

Ka Leo's group of about 15 rebels fought the Army soldiers for 20 minutes, said Maj. Nerven Obayan, information officer of the 403rd Infantry Brigade based in Calamba, Leyte.

The soldiers were separately responding to a text message about extortion activities in the area.

The Communist Party of the Philippines and the NPA, its guerrilla arm, have been waging an armed struggle in the Philippines since 1969.

In December last year, the military claimed it had disarm the territory of the Islamic insurgency leaning base central Islands *Jose et guerrillas* for the first time in decades, bringing down numbers down to below 5,000 from a peak of 26,000 in 1987.

In the face of declining overseas support, the insurgents have stepped up their efforts to extort money, notably from local businesses. With report from AFP

How to live the way of People Power

From page A1

comes structured into just three hour days in February 1986.

People Power is simply described as a historical event, and some books go on to say that it was a phrase coined by then Lt. Gen. Fidel V. Ramos when he made a desperate call for help in getting his soldiers trapped in Camp Crame and before Sen. Juan Ponce Enrile's radio could close in.

Intellectuals like Georgie G. Reyes thought at that time that "People Power invented a revolution. It was not to instill the whole revolution. This explains the prevailing air of frustration, the sense of instability, of affairs being in flux. It reflects the reality that the Revolution is not yet fully formed."

I think it remains so to this day.

Many of our youth unwitting People Power with images of us sitting Ferdinand Marcos' boarding a US military aircraft, a day tonight. Inside by his side. But there, People Power is all about how a dictatorship—with its tanks and soldiers—was toppled by more than a million unarmed and prayerful civilians.

Different definitions

Gary Ignatius once described People Power as "manipulate on a grand scale." She recalled that at Sto. Domingo Church "the people" mistook the newspapers had never seen Ninoy alive. They did not know me and in fact I had to introduce myself as I could enter the church. And yet, [second] two million people passed in the [Ft.] Aguinaldo funeral march. For me, pain and sorrow had become theirs as well."

On the other hand, Amando Doronila observes that "People Power movements have been in Imperial Manila phenomenon. Their playing field is Edsa. They have excluded the provinciales from their movement with their road-border arrogance and snobbery—ignoring the existence of the lasting masses and peasants in agrarian Philippines."

Conrad de Quiros says People Power as a "manipulative act by a people to end tyranny without bloodshed which others maintain have been in name only." On Edsa, however, he goes on to say that "yes we were the first country as well to restore anarchic rule after that. Or one characterized by the same pillage that went to Edsa it."

If we put all of the above together, it would be easy to form the impression that People Power is something that happened in the past and seems little significance today except as an interesting footnote.

But it is not. People Power is—it should be—a way of life.

The Good Society

The framers of the 1987 Constitution were able to draw their aspirations for a "Good Society" which is "free, peaceful, prosperous, equitarian, just and humane."

In the book, "The Philippines into the 21st Century," Jose B. Almeda Jr. et al. say "the 1987 Constitution clearly implies that by [unintelligible] alone, the rulers and the ruling class cannot be depended upon to bring the desired changes toward "The Good Society" without extensive pressure from a politically conscious, informed, and organized citizenry."

As you see, the argument that democracy gets in the way of progress is false. In the contrary, vigilance and active involvement is its point to the best way to level the playing field so to speak. In so many words, the 1987 Constitution says that People Power is the hallmark of good citizenship.

Duty to defend freedom

How do we then conduct ourselves as good citizens?

In the People Power way. This means that we fully accept that it is our duty to continuously exercise and defend our basic freedoms and rights (e.g. freedom of speech and of the press, freedom of association, the right to vote, and the right to feel frustrated before the law).

If we become victims of this duty, some party system could very well come along and take it all away from us.

Cely Aquino said: "We cannot allow evil and wrongdoing to go unpunished and unexposed. Responsible citizenship brings with it not only a right but also a duty to protect a wrongdoing, and responsible government is duty bound to listen.

"As for ourselves, the best we can do for one another for the future is to unite in this struggle, and to expand and strengthen the ground for our common cause. We must encourage on the road to peaceful change, and wrong all others to divide us. All the power we need is within ourselves."

That is People Power, and that is why we must commemorate it: to stir hearts every year, with conviction.

(Editor's note: The writer is *the founding chair of The Foundation for Worldwide People Power.*)

Scenarios of doom if polls fail

From page A1

pines placed Mindanao under red alert, warning that the region, home to about a fourth of the country's 50 million voters, faced a virtual power shortage that could disrupt the conduct of automated elections on the island.

The warning triggered a rally from a member of the House of Representatives to grant President Macapagal Arroyo emergency powers to ward off an energy crisis on Election Day.

What's curious about this move is that this crisis is claimed to be due to a dry spell.

It was quickly pointed out that if the problem was power water shortage, how could emergency powers create sun to fill the dams. Half of the power supply to Mindanao comes from hydroelectric plants whose turbines are run by water.

The proposed solution could allow Ms Arroyo to cling to power if the May general elections failed to elect a new set of national leaders.

Fraught with more peril

What this illustrates is that there is no shortage of opportunities to create a political vacuum or of individuals or groups ready to take advantage of these arising from an election failure and to grab power.

The May elections are fraught with more peril to the orderly transfer of power than any election since Edsa I.

The populace in Indonesia is now humorous celebration of this anniversary; the government is not encouraging any celebrating that would reawaken the spirit of the popular uprising.

Last year, Ms Arroyo based her campaign for re-election on the theme, "The world embraced Edsa I in 1986. The world tolerated Edsa II in 2001. The world will not forgive an Edsa III, but will condemn the Philippines as a country whose political system is unstable."

From that succession at Edsa II, the stability of the democratic political system has diminished and has been undermined by tampering with the system, such that the country now faces some of the most uncertain elections since Edsa I.

Of the four key players in Edsa I—Ileto with opposition leader Cory Aquino, Juan Ponce Enrile his and Gen. Fidel Ramos—Enrile came on the heels to the power-sharing scheme was inducted President after Ferdinand Marcos was overthrown.

Edsa I for Enrile has been an event of painful memories—not for frustrations to come power from Marcos against whom he plotted with ambition rekindled in the coup attempt in 1986.

Celebration scorned

On Feb. 23, 2000, Enrile scorned the official celebration of the 23rd anniversary, saying, "... seemingly lost in the festivities and other ghosts' ever in the party commission, is the [ex-]martyrs and sacrifices of our countrymen who died not only for the country, but [yet] their very souls from on the line to pave the way for such change to happen.

"For this reason, I have come by [to] use the opportunity to celebrate the Edsa Revolution publicly. I have long nursed a certain discomfort in being paraded as an 'Edsa hero' while those who bravely dared to fight the hard battle with us seemed to have been forgotten, their bloodshed ignored, and even their heroic contribution belittled."

Seizing power

Enrile added, "This discomfort [is] because which I now head probably would not even be in existence now, if not for the bravery and unselfishness of the men behind the RAM [Reform the Armed Forces Movement], who guarded their lives to redeem the freedom of our countrymen."

Let no one forget that the military rebellion against Marcos' 1986 snap election was led by Enrile's coup plot was primarily aimed at seizing power from Marcos—not to restore democracy.

One of the many archived media reports on the military revolt of Enrile and Ramos, in their breakaway from Marcos, narrates that "on Saturday, Feb. 22, 1986, Enrile, accompanied by the RAM soldiers, flew by helicopter to the defense ministry headquarters at Camp Aguinaldo, while Ramos was ensconced in Camp Crame ... where he commanded the loyalty of nonmilitary forces."

Ambivalent toward Corazon Aquino, Enrile's aim was to head a National Reconciliation Council [emphasis his] [and] which would rule in the transition until another election."

Making a fresh pitch for the importance of military intervention in a political crisis, Enrile concluded his damage-control ploy justifying military takeovers in the event of a failure of democratic processes governing the transition to power.

Military to choose leader

Speaking in the crypto-fascist accent derived from his experience as martial law administrator of the Marcos dictatorship, Enrile was at home last week (after his solid 4:02 CBN chat in case of massive failure of elections, the Armed Forces of the Philippines and the Philippine National Police could intervene and choose an acting head of government.

This invoked a provision of the 1987 Constitution, drawn after Edsa I, Article II, Section 3, which assigns the AFP as the "protector of the people and the State."

This provision is an upshot of the "duty role played by the military inherited in framing this" one. This provision seems out of character of the 1987 Constitution, which removed the parliamentary-like democratic institutions, and stinks out like cure threads in a libertarian docu ments.

Mockery

The provision opens a way for the backdoor entry of the military into power, making a mockery of the essential tenet of democratic constitutions, that of the supremacy of civilian authority over the military.

Built on the concept, dearly cherished by authoritarian regimes, that the military is the ultimate guarantor of national salvation, the provision was used by the AFP chain of command to withdraw support from President Joseph Estrada, when his impeachment was aborted by Edsa II in 2001—in reality a bloodless extra-constitutional coup.

Enrile has provided a legal argument for the AFP to intervene in a crisis when, in their opinion, they had to intervene to break an impasse and restore public order and safety.

Should there be a failure of elections, there would be no civilian authority on June 30 when Ms Arroyo's term ends because there would be no President, Senate President and Speaker of the House, Enrile said.

Most organized

"The only authority that you have are those with guns—except that they are the most organized people in the bureaucracy," he said. They are the "permanent institutions" and the only ones who could "control the country at that time."

Enrile added that the AFP chief of staff and the PNP director general could pick a civilian authority "to administer the government in transition."

He said the PNP was one of the more "institutions of legitimate violence" in the country's life.

"Constitutionally, you put a piece of document and if it is not enforced, nothing will happen," Enrile said.

"Who will enforce the Constitution? It is the police and the military if there is no civilian authority that succeeds," he added.

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NBI, PASG TO FILE CHARGES AGAINST IMPORTER, BROKER

Smuggled vehicles recovered

By Jeannette I. Andrade

A JOINT TEAM FROM THE National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) and Presidential Anti-Smuggling Group (PASG) has traced five used Korean-made vehicles that were allegedly smuggled out of the Manila International Container Port (MICP) to a car dealer in Marikina City.

Lawyer Edmund Aragay, who headed the team which conducted the operation, said the five Samsung Rionnels cars which were valued at P3 million arrived at the MICP in September.

The shipment, however, disappeared shortly after its arrival but on Friday PASG and NBI Special Operations Group agents found the five vehicles on display at Jesus Truck Co., a car dealer, on J. P. Rizal street, Barangay Concepcion Dos, Marikina City.

Aragay said the vehicles were manufactured in used engines. The shipment was consigned to Pickhead Inc. owned by a Korean, Peter Park, while the broker of the transaction was identified as Mylene Tales.

Mobile Trucks Co. secretary Jean Rada, meanwhile, told PASG and NBI agents that all the cars in the shop were owned by the firm except for the five Korean-made vehicles.

Aragay said they were preparing to file charges of violations of Executive Order 156 or the Tariff and Customs Code of the Philippines against the shipment's importer and broker.

He added that they were also investigating some MICP personnel for their possible involvement in the release of the smuggled shipment.

Comelec teams up with MMDA

By Mike Navales

THE COMMISSION ON ELECTIONS (Comelec) has ordered the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority (MMDA) to tear down illegally posted campaign materials in the metropolis in accordance with the law.

"The resolution will further strengthen our operations. Nobody can question the legality of what we are doing now with this deputation order," MMDA Chair Oscar Inocentes said in a statement yesterday.

In an en banc resolution issued recently, the Comelec tasked the MMDA and Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) with assisting the poll body in implementing a provision of the Fair Elections Act which limits the display of candidates' propaganda materials to designated common poster areas.

The MMDA was placed in charge of implementing the ban in Metro Manila while the DPWH will do the same in the rest of the country.

Inocentes, meanwhile, vowed to remove posters placed in prohibited areas "regardless of the personalities, political parties or affiliations involved."

DID YOU KNOW

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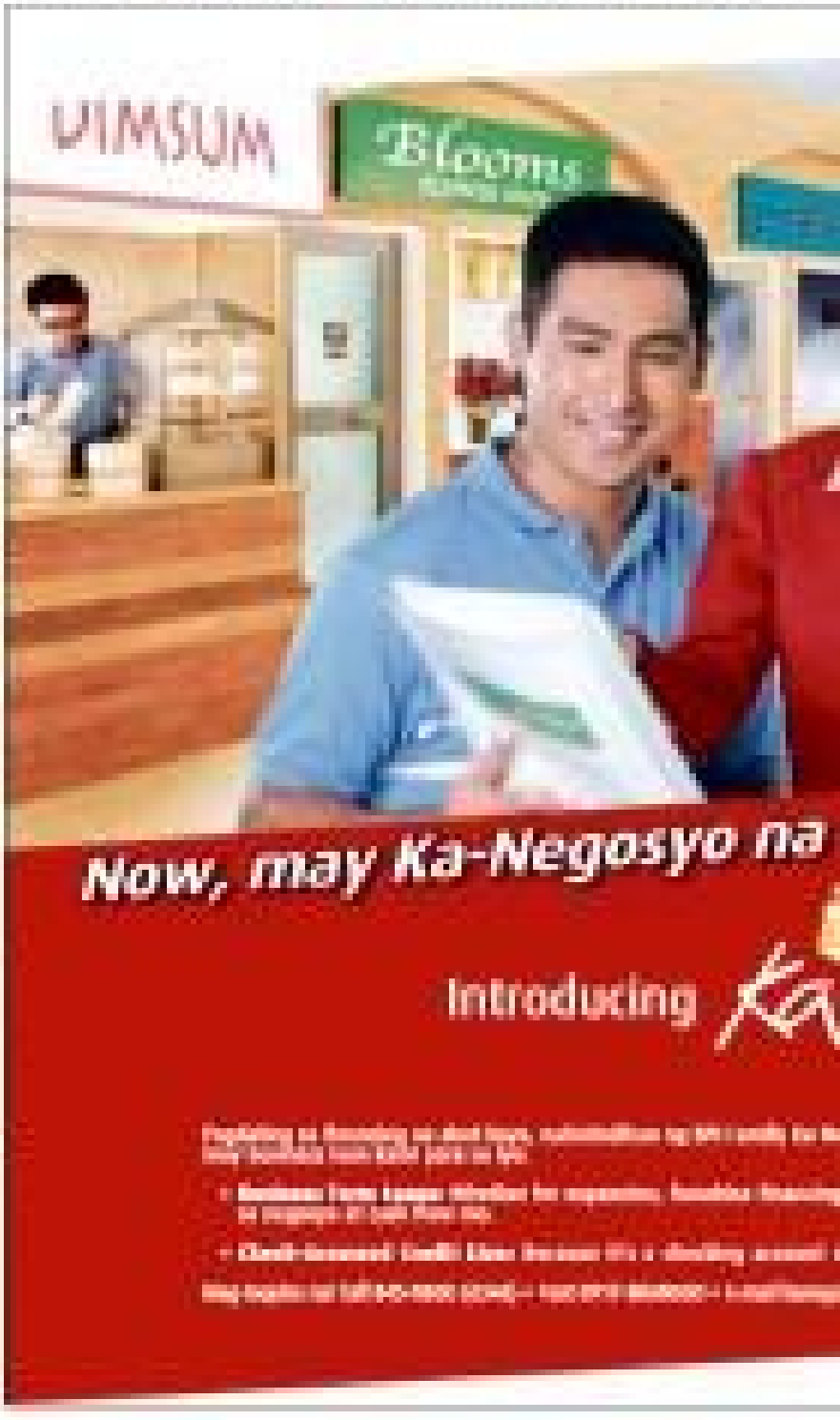
Civil Registry Statistics Division

'Rodriguez not a poll hot spot'



Prime minister drops Ukraine vote challenge

The WORLD

Editor Lorenzo B. Gozo

The newly-elected 2010 AdBoard officers and board of directors. Seated from left to right are Lucien Oy Tiaco (UPMC), Mitos Barrozaras (PASAP), Vice Chair Tessie Celestino-Howard (IBA), Margot Torres (PANA), Jose Sy (CAAP). Standing from L-R: Allen Velez (ASAP), Joy Vaz (DAAP), Corp. Sec. Rick Hawthorne (ASAP), Chairman Andre Kelin (ABC), Ruwel Loyola (AAS), Treasurer Aldon Canaleta (NOBES), PR Officer Raymond Armada (Abs) and Pepito Olores (UPMC). Not shown in photo are directors Rudy Villar (PANA), Sandro Puno (PANA) and Jose Nico Nolledo (PAPAP)

AdBoard Elects its 2010 Officers and Board of Directors

The Advertising Board of the Philippines elected its 2010 officers and board of directors during its annual general membership meeting held last 09 February at the Manila Polo Club, Makati City.

Andre Kelin of J. Romero & Associates (Abs) was elected chairman, bagging his 9th chairmanship in the AdBoard, while Tessie Celestino-Howard from Ad-Vice Marketing (IBA) was voted as vice chair. Treasurer post was passed on to Aldon Castañeda of MORES while Rick Hawthorne of Rockcommer Network Inc. as the new corporate secretary. This year's PR & Information officer is Raymond Arsenio of Leo Burnett (Abs).

The line-up of board of directors include: Allan Velez of Events Pool (ASAP), Ruwel Loyola of Workshope One (Abs), Jose Sy of Pan Asia (CAAP), Jose Vaz of Lunetta Advertising (DAAP), Margot Torres of Golden Arches Dev't. Corp. (PANA), Rudy Villar Jr. of SM Retail, Inc. (PANA), Sandro Puno of Media Pros, Inc. (PANA), Felipe Gloria of Philippine Daily Inquirer (UPMC), Lucien Oy Tiaco of Philippine Star (UPMC), Jose Nico Nolledo of Burgos, Inc. (NAAP) and Mitos Bonnevier of Group M Pros. (MSAP).

US debates: Was pilot a terrorist or a criminal?

AUSTIN, TEXAS—WHEN A MAN FUELED BY rage against the US government and its tax code crashes his airplane into a building housing offices of the Internal Revenue Service (IRS), is it a criminal act or an act of terrorism?

For police in Austin, it's a question tied to the potential for public alarm. The building set ablaze by Joseph Stack's suicide flight was still burning on Thursday afternoon when officials confidently stood before reporters and said the crash wasn't terrorism.

But others, including those in the Muslim community, look at Stack's actions and fail to understand how he differs from foreign perpetrators of politicized violence who are routinely labeled terrorists.

"The problem of many individuals and institutions seems to be that no act of violence can be labeled 'terrorism' unless it is carried out 'by a Muslim,'" said Ibrahim Awad, director of the Council on Islamic-American Relations.

Within hours of Thursday's crash, which several witnesses said silenced memories of the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks, both federal and local law enforcement officials, along with the White House, said it did not appear to be an act of terror.

Yet in the same time, Stack's motives for flying his single-engine plane into a seven-story office building after apparently setting his house on fire were becoming clear as detectives, reporters and others found a rambling manifesto on the Web in which he described a long-simmering dispute with the IRS and a hatred of the government.

In the note, Stack said he longed for a big "body count" and expressed the hope that "American zombies wake up and revolt."

"To keep the government from getting money, he burned his house. To keep them from getting money he crashed his airplane," said Ben Hunter, whose father Vernon, a longtime IRS employee, was the only person killed by Stack's attack. "That's not the act of a patriot. That's the act of a terrorist, and that's what he is."

Stanley, an Austin-based global intelligence firm, said the rhetoric in Stack's note clearly matches the USA Patriot Act's definition of terrorism: a criminalized act intended to "influence the policy of a government by intimidation or coercion; or to affect the conduct of a government by assassination or kidnapping." AP

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WHAT'S INSIDE
■ Thunder roll to 8th straight triumph /A31

SPORTS
Editor Teddvic S. Molondres
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■ Gaston sparkles as Luisita rules PAL Interclub /A30

Patriots clinch ABL via a sweep

By Jacinto W. Paya

JAKARTA—THE TEAM'S undisputed leader rose to the occasion.

Jason Dixon showcased his best game of the season as the Philippine Patriots completed a sweep of Indonesia Satria Muda Britama with a 75-67 Game 3 triumph to capture the first asean Basketball League championship last night at The Bellmas Arena here.

Dixon, overshadowed by fellow import Gabe Freeman's recent sensational plays, turned a game-high 28 points and grabbed 12 rebounds to the Patriots as a crowd limit an ecstatic start.

"I told Jason before that this is his team," said Freeman, the former PBA first import who joined the Patriots late in the eliminations. "When you have a big man to dominate like this, it relieves a load off me on defense."

Freeman struggled offensively in the first half, but caught fire in the third period to finish with 17 points and 19 rebounds.

Rufo Salmerwight, Nonoy Thaine and Jervin Gaco also started to key runs that pulled the Patriots ahead by as many as 16 points, 60-52.

Jimmy Bonbo, Elmer Espiritu and Quintin Gerard also came through at the defensive end when Indonesian team star Ronny Gunawan and import Hakeem Miller rolled home 10 baskets within eight, 70-62.

"We opened a long series, but luckily our guys played hard especially on defense," said Patriots coach Louie Alas.

A 7-0 spurt gave the Patriots their first double-digit lead, 42-32, after scoring the halftime lead, 38-31.

"The Patriots do serve the way," said Indonesian coach Hector Hadiaja. "We have to defend the Patriots. We need more bodies."

The Patriots, who took Games 1 and 2 at home, also outrebounded Satria Muda, 51-37.

"This proved that we won the first ABL championship but I'll also like to congratulate Satria Muda for giving us a very very difficult fight," said Patriots Game owner Mikee Romero, who co-owns the team with businessman Teodoro Cojuangco.

The Scores
PHILIPPINE PATRIOTS (75) — Dixon 28, Freeman 17, Salmerwight 6, Jose 5, Thaine 7, Gaco 4, Bonbo 2, Espiritu 2, Gerard 2, Rufo 2, Ramos 0, Quinto 0, Rivera 0.
INDONESIA SATRIA MUDA BRITAMA (67) — Gunawan 18, Hadiaja 14, Miller 13, Wiradarma 6, Chandra 6, Sukmana 2, Adipati 2, Ardiwinata 2, Lie-Nimrod 2, Tjiasjadi (Sukmana) 0, Ardhi 0.
Quarters: 17-17, 38-31, 60-52, 75-67

JERWIN Garcia of the Philippine Patriots battles Wahyumingi Sasmukang of Indonesia's Satria Muda for possession in Sunday's Game 3 at the Bellmas Arena in Jakarta.

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Gaston sparkles as Luisita dethrones Canlubang

By Mhaneg S. Castillo

BACOLOD – THE THIRD-ROUND bust was the gleaming hero for Luisita in the final step yesterday.

After failing to count for the first time in the storied Philippine Airlines Interclub season, Francis Gaston boomed back with the day's best of 54 points to secure the first Interclub championship for Luisita in five years.

Gaston outdueled Canlubang ace Tommy Manotoc by matching par 70 at the tough Marapara course, with the four-point edge he secured in the marquee pairing proving as the final margin in the victory that ended the league Barons' four-year reign in the D1 and above division.

Counting Richie Garcia's 46 and the 62 of Berg Sison, the Luisitanos, who started the day two points up on the league Barons, rallied 142 for the day and wrapped up their 14th title overall with a 556 total.

Manotoc's 70 was backed up by the 4th of Bing Bunyi and the 6th of Mart Hechanova as ex-pro Bobby Viray faltered in his final three holes for a no-scoring 43.

Team runner gunslinging stint for Luisita, whose quarreling third-round performance brought back memories of the team's gigantic collapse in Davao last year, when it blew an 18-point lead in four by eight in the end.

Canlubang's rally from six points down Saturday actually was a result of Gaston's failure to defuse with a bumbling 12 at the Bisaya course in Manila town.

Worried that he would do much of the same in Hamtugina, Gaston, a former national amateur champion, sought the help of teammate Payot Iñigo for an 11th-hour check of his swing.

"I just couldn't hit a decent drive (Saturday)," said Gaston, who found that the knees took just 28 balls to complete. "I knew that heart alone would not make me improve on my game, that's why I sought the help of Payot."

After some adjustments on his downswing, Gaston flashed the old mean form by going two-under after the front nine.

"Francis gave us a strange performance," Manotoc, the three-time individual champ who has had some classic skirmishes with Gaston in the past, said.

"It was nice seeing him play that way," Manotoc added.

"Winning the championship is always special, but this one is sweet because we waited so long for this," Garcia said.

Not only did Gaston help the Luisitas snap a long spell, he also captured the 36-hole individual title in the division on the strength of a fantastic 113-hole score that included his 66-on-66 finish.

Defeated seven all the way to the Anvaion Division after shooting 157 both around the title of Brian Green and Mel Maldaraan, for a 5.25 tally and a five-point win over Eagle Ridge, which drew a 10-0 from Cocoa Castle.

Lorelie Garcia finished Dr. Jekell's side drive by also finishing with 96 for 36 holes which tie are up with a 53 from a Leander 69 to Maldaraan in the first round.

Ed Alexander's 65 was the chief and final card that assisted for Orchard, which created a dyke in the opener by downing 5.26 at Manila for the overall lead.

BACKAT NO 1 Luisita's final-round hero Gaston savor their moment of triumph. From left, Berg Sison, Francis Gaston, Payot Iñigo, Richie Garcia and Mhaneg Marinella.

TJ Giants oust Beermen in 6

Seal title duel with Alaska Aces

By Cedelf P. Rojas

THE PUREFOODS TJ GIANTS TURNED TO their defense when they needed it most and held off a charging San Miguel Beer squad in the fourth quarter for an 87-76 victory yesterday to finish a tasked to the finals of the 2010 PBA Philippine Cup.

Purefoods held San Miguel scoreless for close to six minutes in the final quarter and closed out the best-of-seven semifinal affair in the Game 6 assistance by releasing the series' last three games.

"It's really a miracle that we're in the finals," said Purefoods coach Ryan Gregorio after the match. "It all boiled down to our will to win."

Roger Yap and James Yap shouldered the offense in the crucial phases of the final quarter, combining for all but two of the team's first 12 points there to help the Giants arrange a title showdown with Alaska in waiting Alaska.

"I told my teammates we can rest when all this is over and right now, we just have to give everything we have," said Roger Yap, who finished with 20 points, 13 rebounds and four assists, on the bowing battle against the well-rested Aces, who swept the Barangay Ginebra Kings.

The Giants led by 16 points at halftime and controlled most of the second half but had to fend off and fire by the Beermen before unwinding the victory.

San Miguel came to within six, 64-58, at the start of the fourth period after Jay Washington's two free throws, but Rocky Raymundo pulled off a pair of defensive gems that quelled the rise.

Raymundo stole the ball off Chico Ruesta—whose miscue led to Lewis 3 had been upended in time, making him the holder of the record for locals—and then caulked for a layup that stretched the lead to eight.

He then foiled a post play with another steal that set James Yap up for a jumper, 75-58, with 5:13 left.

PUREFOODS hero Roger Yap wins the battle for the loose ball over San Miguel's Mike Cortes who dives in to win.

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Alaska's many-sided triangle

ONE GAME AT A TIME

JAY SARMIENTO

NORTHSIDE PLAZA ALASKA IN THE BPC Pan Philippine Cup finals will have its hands full solving the geometric puzzle known as Alaska's triangle.

In its pieces form, the triangle of three silicon players in one Manila has refuse talents without sacrificing team play. It requires pinpoint passing and shooters to see how the defense is setting and what gaps are created once the white piece in the post is completed to a close-out is made for the team of frontcourtmen.

Once jokingly dubbed by Michael Jordan as the "triangle impossibility offense," the triangle is actually the "Phil Jackson" three-tiered version of what was once known as the triple-post offense.

He showed this with his three brilliant assistants coach in Chicago Bulls, Phil Jackson, who agreed that it would help your Jordan of his offensive load without sacrificing his individual contributions.

The concept of allowing the other three players to participate in the offensive was also appealing because it would keep the defense guessing.

The offense was supposed to flow/send touch. Benny Cullen, who was in a new role as the assistant coach, guess. When Cullen left the Bulls and Jackson took over, he installed just 20 balls to complete. "I know that heart alone would not make me improve on my game, that's why I sought the help of Payot."

After some adjustments on his downswing, Gaston flashed the old mean form by going two-under after the front nine.

"Francis gave us a strange performance," Manotoc, the three-time individual champ who has had some classic skirmishes with Gaston in the past, said.

"It was nice seeing him play that way," Manotoc added.

"Winning the championship is always special, but this one is sweet because we waited so long for this," Garcia said.

Not only did Gaston help the Luisitas snap a long spell, he also

The triangle offense that went on to bind the Bulls' six NBA titles.

It is, of course, the offense of choice of John Bryant and the LA Lakers, with—those backcourt one-two-three titles.

Alaska's triangle version need not be approached with diagrams.

Just see how everyone on the court draws the ball proximately even if it seems at times that Willie Miller (who's once the hottest a little longer than the others. Wouldn't you give it to him in your team offensive threat?

Every Alaska Ace is a potential scorer from.

LA Tenorio can swing it as "Easy do it Cruz in his favorite step spot, or inside where Joe Devance and Sonny Thoss can pound it with their size. Or he can dish it off to an open fellow in the perimeter or make the shot himself.

That's why Alaska has feel the assist category with 20.59 per game.

That's already, all games counted with a consistency helping any with an extra pass or a clear pass to an open shooters. Alaska has made four-ball heads like Jeff an many passer trophy with its triangle offense.

The pests are integral to the whole and Tim Cone has similar experience 1990 ground does signed.

Rookie San Johnny Abarrientos' role is the pesters. Jojo Lastimosa and Jeffery Caviano's games are filled in by Miller and he is Cruz. Rene Hawkins is played by Devance, and Thoss is his the slot doing Dick Johnny's job.

Canlubang is still very much around with Alaska and is a strong presence coming off the boards.

The difference between the 2006 team and the present one is size, with Thoss, Devance and Ilo to Cruz having so much more ceiling.

Today the imagination, doesn't it? It would be a delight to actually see a game between those two squads and how they play on the offense. Come how patiently carved as his system.

Alaska's main opponent will have to use size and defensive champions to stay in time with the many sides of the triangle. It will take perhaps the increase the Alaska triangle has moving parts that can be hard to pin down.

Modest goal for shuttlers

By Marc Anthony Reyes

A YOUTH-LADEN PHILIPPINE badminton team outfit set to start the campaign the performance of its predecessors when it plunges into action today in the Thomas and Uber Cup preliminaries in Maldives Ranhaanmu, Thailand.

The nine-member contingent, bannered by 14-year-old Mahbuna Ann Bantug Abdula, hopes to at least hurdle the first round of the squad's most prestigious team event.

"This is one of the toughest team events in badminton," said Alaska's father Melvin who will back top coach Allan De Leon. "At 14 as I know, we haven't gone to the final stage, ever."

A team led by siblings Beatrice and Bernadette Amandoron made it to semifinal honors of the pre-Olympics when the country hosted the event in 1998.

Each does, the competition was tight because we had to face many countries," said the current national coach Helen Anselmo.

Lead by team manager Federico Lacson, the Uber Cuppers are Abdula, Gelbin Castillo, Jamilla Belina Cruz and Ella Nicole Magpe. Competing in the Thomas Cup are Paul Jefferson Vivas, Bernard Esmeralda, Andrei Rafael, Rudyh Jan Morales and Reza Gabriel Magpayo.

SPORTSWATCH

'Rambulan' Round 2 at SJC today

THE SECOND BATCH OF PART SUPPORTS COMPETITION of the P10.5-million Nationwide 'Rambulan' 9-Cock Derby at the San Juan Coliseum.

Due to the big field of entries, other participants will have their turn on Wednesday and Saturday. Qualifiers from the second batch on Feb. 22, 24 and 27 will advance to semifinal round on March 1.

The highest-scores today from the third batch comprising of 72 entries, was the LCB Spirit 11 entry from Quezon province with 11.5 points.

Makati 3-cock derby gets going

METRO MANILA'S 19-AREA COMBINE DERBY Makati Cockfighting Association and the PBA Saturday at 5 p.m. today in the MCA Open 3-Cock Derby at the Makati Coliseum.

The MCA Sports and Amusement Corp. is presenting the special cockfest with an entry fee of P5,000 and eating the "open guaranteed" format.

Up next at the venue is the "Sabong Para Kay Cancer" 3-cocker hosted by the Manalac group on Thursday. Submission of entries is Wednesday.

Buenavista outlasts Kenyans in 'Tuna' run

By Romina S. Asuncion

EDUARDO BUENAVISTA IS BACK TO HIS winning ways.

The marathon gold medalist in the Laro Sandiwara Asian Games last December outsprinted two Kenyans in the concluding 21K event of the first Century Tuna Superfoods Run which started and ended at the Bonifacio Global City in Taguig yesterday.

Buenavista crushed one hour, eight minutes and 10 seconds to scoop off with the P42,000 top prize and various gift certificates.

Willy Tanui finished second in 1:10:12 while compatriot Willy Boitt was third in 1:10:15.

Seven Kenyans participated, including Cosmas Ndeyesy (2005 marathon winner David Ripsang, as part of their preparation for other the Hong Kong to Taipei marathon both slated on 9th, 28.

Buenavistas and Jho-Ann Banayag, who completed the marathon sweep by the country in the Laro Games, are also competing in the HK marathon.

"I thought I had won but Buenavista was already apparent out of nowhere," said Tanui, who settled for P21,000.

The 4-foot-3 Tanui had already topped three Philippine races—the Celebrity 21K run last Dec. 20, Cebu marathon on Jan. 30 and Subic pave na Likeway Kabiliyan 21K race at the Mall of Asia in Pasay on Jan. 31.

Familiar names ruled the female category with Marcil Alejalan (1:28:29), Mara Ann Barrera (1:29:29) and Aileen Valentino (1:29:31) finishing in order.

Mariam Morales claimed the top three slots in the 10K event, with Rose Herrera (35:49), Alquin Bolivar (35:51) and 21-franchised Indapan (34:16) ruling the men's division, and Sherenlin Manipol (40:20), Ellen Tabudlo (40:21) and Janet Lumabao (40:40) leading the female participants. They pocketed P5,000, P3,000 and P2,000.

Gerald Salud (1:6:05), Arjo de Asis (15:30) and Ben Alejandrino (16:32) topped the men's 5K while Esmeralda of Imelda Trainer-ace Severiana Salazar (27:15), Merlyn Lumagbas (27:17) and Carmen Rabesbes (27:20) showed the way in the fun-run event.

Over 11,000 runners participated in the event supported by the Boracay, Subic Bay, Tarlac, Nike, Gatorade, Globe, Subic Sports, Fitness First, Focus Media and Bulla.

NEW YORK Knicks latest acquisition, Tracy McGrady, drives to the hoop against the defense of Oklahoma City Thunder's Serge Ibaka during the first half of their game.

Thunder nail 8th straight victory

Oklahoma ruins T-Mac's NY debut

NEW YORK—THE OKLAHOMA CITY Thunder spoiled Tracy McGrady's New York debut with a 121-118 overtime victory for their eighth consecutive win on Saturday.

Kevin Durant powered the Thunder, scoring the game's final free points and 36 for the game to send the Knicks to their sixth successive loss.

It marked the 27th consecutive game the all-star forward has scored 25 or more points. Teammate Russell Westbrook added 21 points as the Thunder erased a six-point deficit in the final minute to force overtime on Durant's three-pointer.

McGrady, traded to the Knicks by the Houston Rockets on Thursday, scored 26 points and delivered five assists in his first game since December.

"It felt foreign to me when I first stepped on there," the 30-year-old told reporters. "I didn't know if I was going to have my timing. I had the jitters. I mean, I haven't played in so long, you know?"

The seven-time All-Star went on to play 32 minutes, longer than he expected.

"It really felt good," said McGrady, who started at shooting guard.

"I think it helped my confidence moving forward so far as mentally knowing that I can go out there and play a significant amount of minutes."

But he was in the game for only 14 seconds in overtime.

"He kind of ran out of gas toward the end," Knicks coach Mike D'Antoni said while praising McGrady's overall play.

"He's been on all four for a long time," D'Antoni said. "I expect him to play at that level or get back to that level in some time."

David Lee topped the Knicks with 30 points and former Boston Celtics' guard Eddie House had 24.

House's jumper, off an assist by McGrady, gave the Knicks a 110-107 lead with 30 seconds to play in overtime.

Then Durant took over.

"He reminds me of myself when I was younger," said McGrady.

Durant reached his 27th consecutive game mark at least 25 points, the longest streak since Allen Iverson also did it in 27 in a row from Jan. 31 to March 9, 2001. The last longer streak was by Michael Jordan in 40 straight in the 1986-87 season.

In Sixteen, Danny Granger scored 36 points, TJ Ford led a second-half surge and the Indiana Pacers snapped a four-game losing streak with a 128-118 victory over the Orlando.

The Rockets led most of the game but the Pacers rallied from nine points down to start the third quarter led by Ford, who scored 19 of his 23 points in the second half.

Troy Murphy added 18 points and 12 rebounds. Aaron Brooks led the Rockets with 26 points and seven assists, and Luis Scola added 23 points and 11 rebounds. Reuters, AP

CHED MM OPENER Lopez (G), Reyes (G), Bautista (F), Ibal (F), Ilan (C), Nitz (G) Upset: W. King (F), Sarte (G), Tolosa (F)

President opens CHEd National Games today

By Marc Anthony Reyes

PRESIDENT MACAPAGAL-ARROYO will be the guest of honor when the 2010 Commission on Higher Education National Games—the country's biggest collegiate sportsfest—starts today at the Rizal Memorial Sports Complex.

The opening ceremony is set at 5 p.m. with competition in all events kicking off tomorrow in venues outside the RMSC and around Metro Manila.

"I personally consider the CHEd National Games as a milestone for Philippine higher education because this is the first time that (private) higher educational institutions, state universities and colleges and local government colleges and universities are staging an integrated national sports competition," said Mr. Reyes in a statement released on the eve of the Games.

More than 5,000 athletes from 17 regions will take part in the weeklong event organized by the CHEd under chair Dr. Emmanuel Angeles.

Philippine Sports Commission chair Harry Angping and Manila Mayor Alfredo Lim will also grace the opening ceremony along with Philippine School Athletic Association chair, Dr. Gonzalo Duque; Samar Colleges and Universities president, Dr. Laura Tacbas; and Local Colleges and Universities Athletic Association president Norma Lopez.

Angping earlier said that the athletes who will compete in the CHEd National Games will get a crack at the national pool for next year's Southeast Asian Games.

Action will be in athletics, badminton, boxing, chess, dance sports, judo, karatedo, lawn tennis, taekwondo, table tennis, taekwondo, baseball, basketball, beach volleyball, football, squash, tahtaw, softball and volleyball.

Pacquiao, 5 others major Elorde awards honorees

By Ray Lustre

PACQUIAO

POUND-FOR-POUND KING MANNY PACquiao and five other world boxers will be the major honorees in the 30th Gabriel "Flash" Elorde Memorial Boxing Awards—Banquet of Champions on March 23 at the Heritage Tent of the Sofitel Hotel in Manila.

Pacquiao, who wrested Miguel Cotto (World Boxing Organization welterweight title last November to become the only fighter in six seven contests in six weight divisions, leads the members in Roster of the Decade.

Also to be listed in the awards this coinciding with the 50th anniversary and 75th birth anniversary of Elorde are former and reigning world champions Bernabe Villaruz (WBO minimumweight), Brian Viloria (International Boxing Federation light flyweight), Sonata Donaire (IBF flyweight), Marvin Montano (WBO flyweight) and Gerry Peñalosa (WBO bantamweight).

The 20-year-old Viloria defended his title for the second time by scoring a unanimous decision over Erik Ramirez on Feb. 28 last year to his third defense. Montano won by split decision over interim champion Manuel Vargas on Sept. 12.

Viloria, 26, won by unanimous decision over Mexican Ulises Solis on April 19 last year. He retained the title via the same verdict over Jesus Iniguez on Aug. 29.

Donaire, 26, defended his title by stopping Raul Martinez in the fourth round, also on April 19. He then stopped Ramirez in a rematch on Aug. 1.

Soriano was over Jose Lopez via a unanimous decision on Sept. 5 to become the youngest world champion at 20. But his reign was take the shortest—two months and 17 days—when he failed to meet the weight limit against Alejandro Hernandez. The bout ended in a split draw but Soriano lost the crown under WBO rules.

The 37-year-old Villaruz won the WBO minimumweight title at age 37 before he fought and lost by TKO in the 10th round to Jhon Marcel Lopez on April 25 last year.

The event is presented by Johnny Revilla Management International and the Elorde Sports Foundation in cooperation with Pagcor, Smart, Tanduay Distillers Hotel, Manila Jockey and Southpoint Bar and Grill.

Fifty years ago on March 16, Elorde stopped Harold Gomes in the Sixteen Coliseum to start his seven-year reign as junior lightweight titlist—the longest by any boxer.

Stoppages mark Tinga Cup start

THE FIRST DAVOE U. TINGA CUP NATIONal Invitational Amateur Boxing Team Championships got off to a smashing start with stoppages marking the preliminary bouts to the delight of the crowd at the Cascada Sports Center in Bagumbayan, Tagum City.

Joy Kevin Edma of Misamis Oriental kicked off the festive finishes by halting local boy Bonbon Bracales in the second round of their gamefight (48 kg), while Tagbilaran's Reymark Surio stopped Arvin Sinches of Mandaluyong also in the second round.

Stoppages in the light flyweight (49 kg) category included Elmo Murillo of Nueva against Mark Anthony Cabangbang of Tagaig (RSC 1:37 in the first round), Nate Lorenz Yuanda of Pueblo-Princesa City against Bonbon Cadenas of Tagbilaran City (RSC 2:23 in the first round), Boni de Mesa of Misamis Oriental against Jake Dorsenit of Mandaluyong (RSC 37 seconds in the first round) and Lorenz Michael Romanes of Mandaue City against Ruben Silagan of Bacolod (RSC 1:30 in the third round).

In the flyweight (51 kg) class, John Rey Abellagan of Bacolod stopped Tobias Bagares of Nueva (RSC 45 seconds in round two), Daryl Banadoy of Misamis Oriental downed Rhonela Cantero of Tagaig (RSC 1:14 in round two) and Mhark Mangubat of Puerto Princesa whipped Patrick dela Cruz of Mandaluyong (RSC @ 2:02 in round one).

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11 motorsports aces vie for Golden Wheel Awards March 1

THE SEVENTH GOLDEN WHEEL AWARDS Night crowns the top achievers in Philippine motorsports on March 1 at the Pagcor Theater in Parañaque City.

The champions from various races will vie for the coveted Golden Wheel Driver-Rookie Driver and Golden Wheel National Driver of the Year plums with organizers promising a surprise twist that will make this award-giving event chaired by Johnny Tan even more colorful.

Candidates for the coveted plums include Manuel Fernando Reinhardt (Mitsubishi), Durand Soares (Monteverde), Mikee Greg Bautista (Superbikes), Alex Perez (Drifting), Reynee Mendiola MD (Slalom), Ricardo Mikhael Dino Madlaysense, Binghideel Dizon (4x4 Off Road), Paul Bendevenes Feria (Philippine Grand Touring), Jonathan Tio (Drag Racing), Joey Delgado (Karting) and Tin Sritirat of Thailand (Asian Karting).

"Excellence in motorsports has gone to a more competitive level, and this just proves that we are on the right track in our goal of inspiring our drivers to achieve sports excellence and conquer wider horizons, particularly in the international scene," said Tan, regarded by many as local motorsports' new "godfather."

Last year, John Tarallo and Jonathan Tio bagged the Golden Wheel International Driver and National Driver of the Year plums, respectively.

For details on the Golden Wheel Awards, interested parties may call the Golden Wheel Secretariat at 617-2243.

Steve Silva, Contributor

Table On right is race

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BOBOT CHUA IS SINULOG DERBY SOLO CHAMP; FELIX TREBOL RULES CHINESE DERBY; BOY MARZO WINS ANOTHER TITLE

Thunderbird-believer Anthony "Bobot" Chua of Bgy. Cristina, La Carlota City, Negros Occidental, who feeds his gamefowls with Thunderbird Baby Stag Booster, Thunderbird Stag Developer & Thunderbird Platinum and keeps his birds healthy with Electrogen D+, Strongard, Digestiade, Vetracin Gold Caps, Vetracin Premium and for his chicks Latigo 1000 single dose, extended the solo-win-syndrome that started in the international derbies early this year, by capturing the 2010 Annual Sinulog 6-Cock Derby besting it over a tough field of 385 entries.

It's also a solo finish in Dumaguete when comebacking breeder Felix Trebol outclassed 218 other entries in the 2010 Annual Chinese 7-Cock Derby. Younger brother of legendary gamfowl raiser Tony Trebol, Felix surprised the competition with his roosters' sterling performance which is a loud statement that he is back in circulation.

Meanwhile, Boy Marzo, after capturing the solo victory in the 2010 San Juan Coliseum 8-Cock International Derby last January 28, 30 & February 1, proved unstoppable as his great winning momentum rippled to the nearby Makati Coliseum where Marzo again bagged the championship.

"Matindi talaga ang Thunderbird Bexan XP" , says Marzo.

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Editor: Raul G. Marcelo • Assistant Editor: Corrie S. Mariano

BUSINESS

Crop damage from El Niño to exceed ₱10B

Gov't lists 24 'highly vulnerable' areas

By Nico T. Chicharo

THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE estimates that farm production losses this year due to the El Niño dry spell may fall in the middle of its earlier forecast of between P8 billion and P20 billion.

Agriculture Undersecretary Jesil Budiman told reporters that agricultural damage would go beyond P10 billion if the current dry spell do not end by next month. However, he said it was "unlikely" that farm output losses would reach P20 billion.

"We are still in February and the damage is already way over P2 billion, so it depends on how the weather will develop, but we may go beyond P10 billion. That's alarming, any amount of damage is alarming, but that's within our expectations," Budiman said.

As of Feb. 15, crop damage due to the El Niño weather phenomenon has more than doubled to ₱5,041 billion from the previous week's estimate, according to government documents.

For the Feb. 8 estimate, damage to palay, corn and high value crops such as vegetables and fruits was placed at ₱2.4 billion.

Early this month, the agriculture agency said that mild El Niño conditions might wipe out P8.05 billion worth of agricultural production and severe conditions could bring the up to P20.40 billion.

The National Food Authority (NFA) has already assured the public that the country had enough rice stocks for food consumption. However, the grains agency also said that it was "ready to import more if necessary," said NFA spokesperson Rex Estoperez.

Imports are already set to reach 2.49 million tons, breaching the record 2.4 million tons in 2008, when the prices peaked at $1,000 a ton.

Budiman said the agriculture department and its attached agencies would use their regular budgets totaling about P32 billion to minimize production losses, especially for areas not reached by irrigation.

He said the establishment of shallow tube wells, the lending of irrigation pumps and im-

(NEXT PAGE)

Selling pressure seen to continue

THE SELLING MOMENTUM SEEN IN THE LOCAL

Strength in numbers

SOME YEARS AGO, a $5M-treasure cold one of beer he had rescued into the business of manufacturing wooden block kitchen knife holders. After a few successful sales, he managed to secure a sizable order from a buyer abroad. But since the order was too large for him to fill all by himself, he attempted to invite known competitors to team up with him so they could collectively meet the large volume order. Alas, he failed to see disappointment and frustration that none of them was willing to do so, as they predicted to keep to themselves, perhaps unwilling to open up to a competitor and risk revealing "company secrets." In fact the order, and with it the opportunity of establishing a foothold in the export market, *Pibardare* let him the business to some producer(s) in a neighboring country or to another (bigger) domestic competitor were not clear. But my friend didn't think the latter was likely, knowing more or less what the domestic competition in the industry was like.

Are our SMEs missing too many opportunities like this because of this seeming "kanya-kanya" attitude among our producers? Could it be that ESSE superiors in Thailand, Malaysia and Indonesia have been more successful because they are more willing to collaborate and cooperate when circumstances warrant it? Is our ESSE sector doomed to failure because of our touch of such self-reliance and individualism?

Boxing Bergaut

Well, maybe not. In a success story that needs to be told more often, while increasing farmgate prices.

mainly vegetable farmers in northern Mindanao decided in 2002 to band together and adopt an industry clustering strategy that paved the way for them to gain a foothold in the Cebu City-based 7,000-store supermarket chain that grew to become the Starlite Veggies, a farmers' cooperative that as of last count had 7,000 growers cultivating more than 5,000 hectares in Misamis Oriental and Bukidnon. They now grow a variety of vegetables that used to be raised only in the province of Benguet in Northern Luzon.

The farmers organized and incorporated Starlite Corp., which acts as their consolidator, distributor and marketing arm, by organizing its own marketing unit, Starlite Veggies for the traditional (town of middlemen, directly selling to wet markets and first-class hotels and restaurants, and bringing down prices at the retail level, while increasing farmgate prices.

"We used to fault vegetable importers for their lack of support to our local farmers, only to find out that they are actually willing to support us if we are able to meet their requirements of quality and stable supply," attributed one of the group's organizers. NoMic Veggies reportedly shipped an average of 70 metric tons of assorted vegetables weekly to Luzon and Visayas in 2008. I have heard an agriculture official describe them as having managed to beat the Benguet vegetable growers in markets where distance should have given them the advantage.

LGUs can do it too

In North Cotabato, the five contiguous municipalities of Pigcawayan, Alamada, Libungan, Midsayap and Aleosan decided in 2000 to pool their assources and proceeded to build a road network which roughly cost them P80,000 a kilometer. This was a far cry from the P1 million usually assessed for DPWH road projects. In the Kalahari PRIME Infrastructure Project, the first $20M—where farmers provide the project's acronym—pooled their labor, tractors, equipment, machinery, personnel and expertise to collectively work on road-building projects in the member towns. The initiative won the Galing Pook award for excellence in local governance in 2007.

At the time of the award, the project had rehabilitated and opened for use farm-to-market roads totaling 201 kilometers, at a total cost of P8.1 million. The improved road network has in turn vastly improved the lives of people in 145 barangays, thereby the documented improvements was a 30-percent increase in agricultural productivity, leading to more income for the local farmers, reduced transportation costs, travel time cut by up to half, improved access to social services by residents living in far-flung barangays and expanded entrepreneurial opportunities for women.

Merits of clustering

These two successful initiatives are living proof that there is hope for the Philippines. But what is required is a fundamental change in our mindset and attitude toward partnership, sharing and cooperation. In the context of business, it needs producers who are open-minded and ready to commit themselves to work in a group and team up to satisfy the volume

SEE PAGE B2

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Apr. 7-8, 2010: 1st Winning Agreements with the Language of Negotiations by Rowen Uriñares
Apr. 14-15, 2010: 8th Strategies and Secrets of Super Sales Achievers by Rowen Uriñares
Apr. 15-16, 2010: 1st Strategic Innovation and Business Creation by Josiah Go
Apr. 19-16, 2010: 8th How-To-Set-Up A Distribution Network by Emilio Macasaet III
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Crop damage . . .

From page B1

gation repair work should provide some relief to farmers.

The government, which will implement an 11 NEs mitigation program, has initially looked at 24 "highly vulnerable" areas and 23 "moderately vulnerable" areas in the country based on reports from the weather bureau.

The highly vulnerable areas are those in: Ilocos Norte, La Union, Pangasinan, Cagayan, Isabela, Aurora, Bataan, Bulacan, Nueva Ecija, Pampanga, Tarlac, Zambales, Cavite, Rizal, Occidental Mindoro, Bilawan, Capiz, Iloilo, Negros Occidental, Misamis Oriental, Cotabato City, Isabela and Davao Occidental.

Areas considered as moderately vulnerable to the 11 NEs phenomenon are Abra, Ilocos, Benguet, Ifugao, Mt. Province, Nueva Vizcaya, Quirino, Batanes, Laguna, Quezon, Romblon, Batangas, Aklan, Antique, Bohol, Ilocos, Zamboanga Norte, Zamboanga Sibugay, Zamboanga Sur, Bukidnon, Davao Oriental, Davao Sur and Davao City.

The Tambuli Awards 2010
4th IMC Effectiveness Awards

Call for Entries
Celebrating profitable marketing that promotes societal values, the TAMBULI AWARDS is set to become an annual affair beginning this year. With the new competition on for July 2010, qualified campaigns produced or aired from January 1 to December 31, 2009 should submit their entries on or before APRIL 16.

The Tambuli Awards, organized by the School of Communication of the University of Asia and the Pacific (UAP), is the first and only one of its kind in town to offer following a new study approach to recognizing both the business and societal values of marketing communications campaigns. The awards honor entries that prove that the campaigns resulted not only in increased profitability but also to the betterment of society.

In the years following its inception, each of the Tambuli Awards has undergone transformations intended to keep the awards the most elegant and better than the last, and 2010 is of the no exception. Two new categories will be added to the agency awards: "Best Product-Brand Campaign," which recognizes integrated campaigns that promote clothing and accessories including shoes and perfumes, and "Best Media-Produced Campaign" for campaigns initiated by media companies. The other awards categories are:

- Best Small Budget Product-Brand Campaign
- Best Small Budget Service-Brand Campaign
- Best Established Product-Brand Campaign
- Best Established Service-Brand Campaign
- Best Innovative and Integrated Media Campaign
- Best Insights and Strategic Thinking
- Best Turn-Around Campaign
- Best Family-Oriented Brand Campaign

This year will also introduce a new special award to the "Best in Creative Idea and Execution." To celebrate the first Tambuli Awards, a label that promoting crime and will be awarded to the creative agency behind the most creative campaign and the degree to which it is successful—elected.

In addition, a special award called the Effectiveness Agency of the Year Award, will be given to the communications agency with at least 3 finalist winning one or more categories. The Effectiveness Advertiser of the Year will be given to the winning client of the Farmacia by Ershan Platinum Award. The highest accolade given to this competition.

The awards rules to hold, silver and bronze, depending on the number of awards a client/agency within the given category as determined by the judges. Gold Winners will qualify for the competition's highest distinction, the Grand Tambuli Platinum Award.

Prepare your entries and see if you are in the league. Some Tambuli Awards rules

Deadline for submission of entries is APRIL 16, 2010.

Visit www.tambuliawards.com or e-mail Ms. Nelly Balayo at 887-0992 local 202 or nbalayo@uap.edu.ph

The value of a campaign is in the values.

UNIVERSITY OF ASIA AND THE PACIFIC
HONES

No free lunch

Frontpage B1

and quality demands of the market. This entails giving up some measure of independence, and naturally adhering to production protocols and a code of ethics are for the sake of the cluster's common welfare. In the context of local governance, it requires putting aside political rivalries and adhering to a discipline of cooperation and taking steps, putting the common good before parochial interests.

Whether in enterprise clustering or in LGU resource pooling, it is indeed possible for an Filipinos as much be greater heights than are here so far achieved. But it requires changing our favorite pronoun from "I" to "we."

Comments welcome at chobles@inquirer.com.ph

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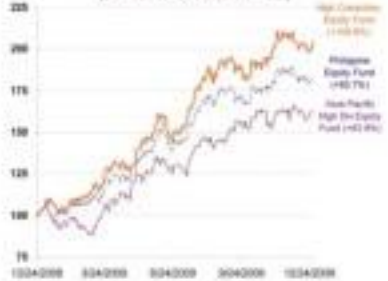
ING's UITFs sizzle in 2009!
What's next in 2010?

Unit investment trust funds (UITFs) managed by ING Bank N.V. Manila Branch's Trust Department ("ING") delivered spectacular returns in 2009. Leading the pack were its 3 retail equity funds: the flagship ING Philippine Equity Fund (+81.7% Year-on-Year), the higher-risk/higher-return potential ING Philippine High Conviction Equity Fund (+104.6% YoY), and the ING Asia-Pacific High Dividend Equity Fund, a defensive equities strategy allowing exposure to markets in the Asia-Pacific region (+63.9% YoY).

ING's Equity Fund Returns for Calendar Year 2009
(12/24/08 to 12/29/09; Base = 100)



Data source: ING Trust. Past performance is no guarantee of future performance.

What can we expect from 2010? ING's Chief Investment Officer in the Philippines, Paul Joseph Garcia, believes that while last year's remarkable returns (which reached triple digits for the ING Philippine High Conviction Fund) may be hard to come by again, the fundamentals point to a continued favorable environment for growth assets.

"The country's strong corporate fundamentals and healthy consumer and overseas remittance sectors should bode well for investors this 2010, barring negative developments especially in relation to the elections," Garcia said. "While returns will likely be less dramatic than last year's, we believe that equities will outperform bonds once again, and that the local and regional stock markets continue to hold good upside this year."

ING does not guarantee an absolute level of returns in the future. Security prices may go up or down, market conditions are ever-changing, past performance is no guarantee of future performance and investment involves risk including a possible loss in the principal amount invested. That said, investors may benefit by selecting fund managers with a good track record of historical performance when investing their long-term assets. Before acting on any representation in this release, a client should consider whether it is suitable for his particular circumstances and if necessary, seek professional advice.

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Gov't to borrow more due to senior citizen's VAT exemption

By Samuel W. Domingo

THE GOVERNMENT'S PLANNED BORROWings this year may have to be increased due to additional revenue losses expected from the implementation of the senior citizen's exemption from the value-added tax, according to the Department of Finance.

This year's borrowing program already envisions 47 percent of the P1.54-trillion national budget.

The estimated revenue loss of at least P1.66 billion in 2010 due to the Expanded Senior Citizen Act "will have to be plugged, not by new revenues for the budget you had by additional borrowings," said Finance Undersecretary Gil Beltran.

Beltran said this also ran especially if the government were to keep the same level of spending for education and infrastructure.

Last Feb. 8, the 24th ruled President Macapagal-Arroyo to veto the three bill, how it was signed into law a week later.

In an request for a veto, the DOF said it was amenable to increase the senior citizens' discount on purchases to 30 percent of their bills from 20 percent, instead of full exemption.

Also, Beltran said the new law "opens up the system to leakages and a complicated tax administration."

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Sy, 46-year-old president of the would have enjoyed the same benefit outlined in the new law were simple and much lower without the attendant tax system nightmare. "And the discount been need from 20 percent," he added.

Documents from the Bureau of the Treasury showed that the government plans to avail itself of some of P133 billion to new from this year.

The includes P479.9 billion that will be from net from bond trades through the issuance of treasury bill and bonds.

A total of 55427 billion will be raised from abroad, bulk of which will be $23 billion, as announced last week, while P13.5 billion was raised in January.

ePLDT's VITRO Data Center continues to lead Philippine industry

View Data Center

As one of the pioneers in the data center services industry in the country, ePLDT's VITRO Data Center has consistently delivered the highest level of service and the latest IT innovations to its ever growing number of clients. This unwavering commitment to quality and excellence has made VITRO a market leader, a position further solidified when Frost & Sullivan granted VITRO the 2009 Philippines Price & Sullivan Market Leadership Award in the Data Center Services Market.

Based on research conducted by the globally renowned growth partnership company on the local frontier data center industry, VITRO Data Center gained the highest ratings for each evaluation criteria including market share, data center expertise and revenue growth and innovation. Thus, VITRO was awarded the number one industry ranking for the Philippines market.

"VITRO Data Center offers excellent flexibility to its customers with a wide array of managed services tailored to specific customer needs," according to Dhanjoo Rao, Research Analyst for the Asia Pacific ICT Practice of Frost & Sullivan. "With up to near zero-delay-managed services mainly, VITRO is well positioned to capitalize on the future opportunities in the data center services segment in Philippines."

While the Philippine data center services industry is relatively nascent, it has steadily gained momentum since the first data center in the country. In PNC was launched by premier ICT company ePLDT in 2000. Prior to this, the third-party data center business was virtually non-existent, as local companies and organizations are hesitant to outsource their data center needs and preferred to build their own in-house data centers. However, with the growth of the Philippine offshore and Business Process Outsourcing (BPO) market, spurred by the support of government, the local data center services market found itself much in demand among enterprises that required intensive data support and management such as contact center/ e-commerce providers.

Today, VITRO remains at the forefront of this ever-growing industry. The firm industrial-strength data centers and the largest single data center in the country. VITRO has a robust carrier-neutral telecommunication infrastructure that provides redundant and high-capacity connectivity around the globe. Designed to meet the requirements of organizations for end-to-end IT infrastructure solutions, this world class IDC building is designed to be secure, and enables with a tier plus 7 professional support from certified information technology teams.

VITRO's highly scalable facility is supported by its fault-tolerant environment and skilled workforce, its advanced telecommunications infrastructure provides multiple options for organizations' bandwidth requirements. VITRO's carrier neutrality also makes it possible to reach diverse audiences with services delivered in the best way possible, and provides industry leading Service Level Agreements (SLA) that cover both connection and connectivity.

VITRO is constantly enhancing its portfolio of service offerings to cater to the changing needs of its clients. With more and more companies now outsourcing their data center, VITRO has expanded its product line from previously offering just co-location and hosting services. VITRO's wide range of solutions now include enhanced business continuity and facilities management, virtual private servers, data security, network management, and other managed IT services. VITRO also helps small and medium enterprises (SMEs) by offering new technologies that would increase their visibility and improve their processes.

VITRO Data Center also consistently strives to improve its facilities and processes to make sure that it conforms to best practices and international standards. VITRO is the first Internet data center in the country to be certified for the ISO 9001:2000 Quality Management System standard. It is also certified for the ISO 27001:2005 Information Security Management System standard. VITRO is also accredited by the Philippine Export Zone Authority (PEZA).

The award from Frost & Sullivan is certainly another feather in the cap of VITRO Data Center, and is a nod to its role as a pioneering force in the business center market. And with the outlook remaining bright thanks to high demand and government support, VITRO will surely continue to assist the Philippines' data center services industry forward.

About ePLDT:

ePLDT, Inc., a wholly-owned subsidiary of telecommunications giant Philippine Long Distance Telephone Company (PLDT), is an information and communications technology company providing enabling infrastructure and services focusing on next-generation communications, connectivity and content solutions to clients and consumers. More information is at http://www.epldt.com.

About VITRO Data Center:

ePLDT subsidiary VITRO Data Center, the Philippines' first industrial-strength Internet data center, granted premier status by the Philippine Board of Investments (BOI). Data Center offers a full range of data center services, including collocation and hosting solutions, managed IT services, business continuity and security solutions, all housed in a secure infrastructure. More information is at http://www.vitro.epldt.com.

Ayala Land signs joint venture with Floirendos on mall project

By Dazzle L. Lucas

PUBLICLY LISTED AYALA LAND Inc. will step up its expansion to areas outside Metro Manila this year with it plan to transform a property in Cagayan de Oro City into a mixed-use development, the company said on Friday.

In a disclosure to the Philippine Stock Exchange, the country's biggest property developer said it has entered into a joint venture agreement with AnPa Management and Development Corp. and Mindanao Motors Corp. for the project's.

The deal calls for Ayala Land to develop a 2.2-hectare property along C.M. Recto Ave. in the heart of Cagayan de Oro City. The city is a trade and commercial center serving as a transport hub for northern Mindanao and is considered a high growth area.

The AnPa group is owned by the Davao City-based Floirendo family whose business interests are anchored around its massive banana plantations around Mindanao.

P2.5-B mixed-use development in Cagayan de Oro

The Cagayan de Oro project marks Ayala Land's second deal with the family after the similar P3.5-billion Abreeza mixed-use development was unveiled in Davao City in 2007.

"With Ayala Land's experience in developing world-class real estate developments and the AnPa group's strong corporate presence in the area, the project is envisioned to be an integrated development that will change Cagayan de Oro's urban landscape," the property firm said.

The total capital investment for the project will reach P2.5 billion for the development of the mixed-use shopping mall with approximately 40,000 square meters of gross leasable space.

"The mall will offer basic consumer addressing the everyday needs of the city, as well as unique dining, entertainment and retail concepts that will serve transient communities, tourists and businesses," Ayala Land added.

Construction on the site will begin toward the end of this year with completion expected by 2015. The shopping center will eventually be followed by the development of a business process outsourcing-centered office building and a boutique hotel.

Ayala Land said that both its Cagayan de Oro and Davao City ventures with the AnPa group are consistent with its goal of expanding developing and redevelopping strategic urban areas and lucrative growth centers across the country "in order to deliver additional value for customers and shareholders, while being a strong partner to nation building."

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PSE tightens rules on short-selling

THE PHILIPPINE STOCK EXchange has promulgated a new set of rules which it hopes will help the bourse regulate what is one of the most commonly abused practices in financial markets worldwide—short selling.

In a memorandum released late last week, the PSE said the guidelines covering so-called "securities borrowing and lending" (SBL) activities were meant to identify potential violations by trading participants as well as possible safeguards against this malpractice.

Among the violations that the rules hope to prevent are the failure of a trading party to abide lending fees to the beneficial owners of the securities being lent for short-selling, the unauthorized lending of a client's securities, and breaches of foreign ownership limits.

Under the SBL scheme, stock market players are able to make money even during periods of stock price declines. This happens when an investor correctly predicts that a particular stock price would drop, sells borrowed stocks at that particular moment and buys back the same number of shares at a lower price while keeping the difference as his earnings.

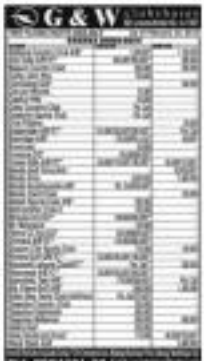
The new rules, which will take effect on March 5, 2013, are one of the last reforms implemented by former PSE president Francis Lim before he stepped down last week.

Short-selling has been blamed for precipitous price declines like that experienced during the PSE Inc.'s worst-ever scandal in 2000.

Present-day technology has, however, made it more difficult for traders to execute "naked" short-selling, where sellers sell shares not in their actual physical custody and buy them back at a lower price before the end of the trading session.

To prevent abuses, the PSE mandated brokers to implement controls designed to ensure that securities have been "properly lent" and "properly authorized" before being delivered to the borrower for the execution of a short sale.

Dazzle L. Lucas



Manila Water net ₱3.2B in '09, up 15%

Volume of billed water rises; taxes down

By Dazon L. Lazo

PUBLICLY LISTED MANILA WATER CO. REported an increase in its earnings for 2009 as the volume of its water sales rose while tax expenses declined.

In a statement to the Philippine Stock Exchange, the Ayala-controlled utility said its consolidated net income hit ₱3.22 billion last year, 15 percent more than the ₱2.79 billion recorded in 2008.

"Billed volume grew by 2 percent year-on-year from 387.31 million cubic meters (mcm) to 398 mcm," it said. "Consequently, total revenues went up by 6.7 percent to ₱9.5 billion by the end of 2009."

The company's operating costs increased by 19.5 percent to ₱2.8 billion as a result of expansion activities, but the firm managed to beat its earnings before interest, taxes, depreciation and amortization (Ebitda) come in at ₱6.7 billion.

More importantly however, the company said it was able to connect an additional 53,000 households to its distribution network with the implementation of its capital expenditure plan in 2009.

This helped minimize the impact of lower water consumption caused by the economic slowdown and the early onset of the rainy season last year.

Investments in the network also resulted in a further reduction in water losses, which is called "non-revenue water" level declining from 19.7 percent in 2008 to 15.6 percent in 2009.

Next administration likely to raise taxes, Teves says

By Ronne W. Domingo

ELECTION PROMISES TO NOT RAISE TAXES will be very hard to keep considering the growing list of "revenue eroding" laws passed recently, according to Finance Secretary Margarito B. Teves.

"The probability of the next administration not raising taxes is remote," Teves said in an interview, noting that the new laws would reduce government revenues this year by at least P22.4 billion.

These new measures include the country's commitments to the Association of Southeast Asian Nations which, aside from removing tariffs on most products traded within the region, has started implementing free trade pacts with China, Australia and New Zealand.

Teves said the latest trade pacts would cost the government P9 billion this year.

He also referred to measures such as the Personal Equity and Retirement Account Act of 2008 or PERA law, which sets up a voluntary pay-as-you-save savings plan that is seen to complement the mandatory retirement system...like the Government Service Insurance System and the SSS...and provide an alternative tax-preferred financial instrument to encourage people to save for old age.

The Peza law will result in P7 billion in forgone government revenues in 2010.

Another is the National Tourism Policy Act of 2009, which provides tax perks aimed at encouraging tourism activities, but would mean the government to lose P3 billion.

Other revenue-eroding factors are related to the Japan-Philippines Economic Partnership Agreement, tax exemption of the Home Development Mutual Fund or Pag-IBIG Fund and the fiscincentives Act.

Aside from revenue losses due to new laws, Teves said government expenditures will continue to grow considering that domestic and global economies are coming from a financial crisis.

In 2009, the government spent P1.425 trillion or 21.9 percent higher than what it spent in 2008. It also incurred a budget deficit of P298.5 billion last year and expects to spend P250 billion over the national budget this year.

BPO sector shifts focus

By Abigail L. Ho

TO ENSURE THE sustainability of the industry, the business process outsourcing sector should provide training, not only to its agents, but also to employees on the supervisory level.

Jon Kaplan, president of InfoDirect Outsource Services Inc., said the industry needed to address the current lack of a strong development program for "frontline leaders."

He said instituting a strong development program was important for an industry that was poised to grow 20 percent in gross sales. Among the worst companies need to have a deep pool of supervisory talents to ensure sustainability.

"What happens is that those companies grow so fast, they've got talent in the door, how do you keep them? If a company says that it wants to grow by 4,000 or 6,000 people, how do they build the infrastructure to do that?" he said.

In this sense, supervisors training has to be a core competency in the BPO sector. Such training "can have a major impact on retention...

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BUSINESS Monday
Business Features Editor Margie Quimpo-Espino

SM helps OFWs become more money savvy

By Irene R. Jimenez
Inquirer Visayas

CEBU CITY—RECOGNIZING the contribution of Overseas Filipino Workers (OFWs) to the country's economy, including the retail sector, a shopping mall operator has come up with a program designed to help them attain financial stability.

SM Prime Holdings has brought its relationship with OFWs to a higher level with the establishment of the Global Pinoy Center (GPC) branches in some of its shopping malls.

"The Global Pinoy Center is our humble tribute to the Global Pinoys who have made great personal sacrifices abroad, to give their children here, the best education they can have, a chance for their families to own their homes, the hope for a better life, and a secure future," explains Annie Garcia, president of the Shopping Center Management Corp. (SM Properties).

Garcia was in Cebu on Wednesday to attend the launching of the 9th GPC in SM City Cebu, the first one located here.

"The deployment of Filipino overseas has helped our country tremendously because their remittances have helped individual and propel the economy forward," Garcia says.

She says the OFW remittances had reached $16 billion and this year, it was projected to launch $17 billion, which would be equivalent to the 14 percent of the country's gross domestic product.

The GPC offers free financial consultation with Banco de Oro, the bank owned by the Sy family (owners of SM), as well as free entrepreneurial and livelihood training sessions to be undertaken by the Department of Trade and Industry and the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority.

The training would enable the OFW and his dependents to be financially independent, allowing them to grow their hard-earned money to wise investments, Garcia says.

"We believe that these activities will help the dependents of the Global Pinoy way away from the trappings of debt-ism and dependency, and in turn teach them to become productive Filipino citizens," the point out.

On the other hand, Garcia says, SM Supermalls also recognize the importance of communication between the OFWs and their families in the Philippines.

The GPC services also include free video conference calls in their OFW relatives abroad, free e-mail and Internet services, which would be provided by SM Supermalls' Global Pinoy partner Abot Tanaw, Garcia says.

Abot Tanaw is a social media network that allows global Filipinos to communicate with their loved ones in the Philippines through voice and video telephony services at no cost to the beneficiaries.

Garcia notes that SM City Cebu has a special relationship with OFWs and their families that started in 1999 when the mall, in coordination with the Overseas Workers and Welfare Administration (OWWA) regional office, initiated the first-ever OFW Family Day held inside a mall.

"Since then, SM City Cebu has been the venue of every more OFW Family Day celebration as well as other OFW-related activities. Even other SM Supermalls also tied up with their respective OWWA regional Offices. It can be said that Cebu is where it all started," she recalls.

Garcia also points out that Cebu ranked second in terms of OWWA membership collections, next only to the National Capital Region, making Cebu, one of the top five provinces in the country with the most number of OFWs.

"Records show that there are over 150,000 registered OFWs in Cebu alone. Neighboring provinces like Bohol, Negros and Siquijor also contribute to the increasing number of OFWs who come in Cebu for business and leisure," she adds. Garcia says SM Supermalls would be opening OFWs in all its 37 shopping malls nationwide.

GOINGS-ON

TRC readies symposium

The Technology Resource Center (TRC) is preparing a symposium on how to turn over technology concepts into viable, profitable and successful businesses.

TRC executive director Dennis L. Dunavan said this title Go-Liquidity Technology Symposium slated at the Philippine Trade Training Center on Feb. 23 could make Filipino entrepreneurs of new technologies become entrepreneurs and capitalism of today's technology-driven industry.

The Technology Symposium forms part of the Technology Partnering forum (TechForum 2010) slated in the same venue on Feb. 22-24 to mark TRC's 33rd year of promoting technology development as a means to create business and national productivity.

9th Food Expo slated

The Philippine Food Processors and Exporters Organization (Philfoods Inc., the country's biggest organization of food manufacturers and exporters, will be holding the 9th Philippine Food Expo at the SM Megamall Megatrade Hall III Mandaluyong City on Feb. 25-28.

With the theme "Building a Global Market through Quality Philippine Food Products," the Philfoods is taking the lead in establishing programs that will promote international business ties to ensure self-sufficiency for local producers, manufacturers and exporters.

The expo, which encompasses Philfoda Philippines International, will feature a supply-based food fair featuring home-grown raw materials, with emphasis on the country's best products, waiting to be shipped out to the global market.

Seminar on soap making set

The Golden Treasures Skills Development Program will conduct a one-day seminar on soap-making at the PTTC (running on Z and B Department of Trade and Industry Building (DTI) Pioneer Blvd. cor. Shaw Blvd. Pasig Brgy. 68 Mk.37. Saturday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Participants will learn different kinds of soaps, household and body care products through lectures and hands-on training. For questions, call 4263326; 09 3650511; 4214577 and 4263281 or log on to www.GoldenTreasures2001.com.

The tragedy in Haiti

THE TRAGEDY THAT FOLDED ITSELF IN after no minority 7 earthquakes leveled to the ground almost every building in its capital. It has rendered its homeless and hospitals, lord apocalyptic proportion.

The rescue of a teenage girl and a young man from the wreckage two weeks after the tragedy, was the bit of uplifting news in a city reduced to ruins. Internet cafes, coupon and shopping malls, and even thousands of homeless walked aimlessly on the streets or cramped in makeshift refugee camps—a city without electricity, scarce safe water and little food. The devastation and sufferings in Haiti flashed on TV sets and people, the sensation is near zero as the worst disaster of the decade.

Over and above his appeal for urgent relief aid like medicines, clean water, food, clothing and shelter, the country's Prime Minister has begun crying for international help to create jobs for his people gone idle.

Last straw

Those who are familiar with that small island nation in the Caribbean, however, say that the recent earthquakes was just the last straw that has broken the back of that "weird" state.

Haiti has had a long history of misery. A Spanish colony soon after Columbus saw it in 1492, it was ceded to France and made a slave territory in 1697. Rebelling bravely against France for 13 years, Haiti earned its independence in 1804. But for over 200 years on its own, Haiti had the misfortune of getting ruled by a succession of chauvinists more intent on personal aggrandizement than working for the nation's welfare, Among the most colorful ones were the first band of governance, a former slave, Jean Jacques Dessalines, who assumed the title Emperor, and of late, a voodoo doctor turned dictator, Papa Doc Duvalier, and his son, Baby Doc who promptly declared himself President for life.

For a while in the last century, it was occupied by the United States like the Philippines.

Even before the tragedy, Haiti has become a global symbol of lack of governance where rulers cared little, if any, in harnessing its potentials for progress and competitiveness in the sense where it has potentials like tourism, IT-enabled services and agri-business. It was a social volcano moving towards a perfect formula for disaster waiting to happen.

The debilitating effect of general vandalism and corruption is seen right away when one visits Haiti and the Dominican Republic that share borders in the same island. In the Dominican Republic, one enjoys free traffic regulation in well-paved highways which happens to thriving tourism industry. When one crosses the border to Haiti, he notices that the forests are gone.

Governance

The Philippines is made better off in the area of governance and competitiveness. This has been painstakingly nurtured by both the government and the private sectors to the point that the country can provide economic opportunities to its 90 million people.

For instance, Transparency International rated Haiti number 166 in rank out of 180 countries, or very close to the bottom in its corrupt perception index (CPI). On the other hand, the Philippines landed on the 139th slot.

MAPping THE FUTURE

Cesar Bautista

In the field of competitiveness, the World Economic Forum ranked the Philippines 71st in its 2009-2010 report this year. Haiti was extremely out of the list of the 134 nations vying for investments and trade.

In a recent issue, Time magazine described Haiti as a public health disaster even in its best day, citing that nearly 200,000 of its citizens live with AIDS and HIV virus. Surprisingly, it made a bigger per capita investment in public health last year than the Philippines as measured by the ratings agency.

Despite Haiti's deep-seated culture of corruption, the New York Times has appealed that the shocked rest be made a reason to delay the assistance needed by its people to rebuild their lives. It was further pointed out by Bill Clinton, the special UN envoy to that country, that the people of Haiti are industrious, inventive and bright as demonstrated by migrants to the United States, Canada and Europe. Dominicans from Hispaniola speaking nations contribute a major share of the national economy.

The same could be said of Filipinos who are all over the world.

On the geological side of the equation, Mr. Alfredo Mahar Lagmay, in an article in the Jan. 24 issue of the Inquirer, said that the Philippines especially Luzon is vulnerable to the fault plate as Haiti. A geology professor of Cambridge University, Dr. Lagmay says that if an earthquake as strong as that which hit the nation capital into Metro Manila, the ensuing devastation may reach the same magnitude. He urges a high degree of vigilance by both the public and government sectors in preparing disaster preparedness programs. Earthquake drills like likes that schools do by getting school children to put their notebooks on their heads while running out of their classrooms just will not be enough.

Culture of safety

He urges the development of a culture of safety and good governance.

In our assessment, the Philippines is certainly not going the way of Haiti especially since an effective action program in competitiveness and governance is being fine-tuned by both the private sector and the government. At their part, leaders of business organizations are drawing up an economic roadmap to bring the Philippines to NIC status in the next few years and bridge the unemployment gap to a range of 2 to 3 percent.

What is needed is the "sustainability" of such a program, owned up and adopted by the alliance of business chambers, accepted by government sectors officials and endorsed by the next administration.

The continuing Haiti tragedy should drive us to greater urgency in ensuring resolve and sustainability in our efforts to provide fresh impetus to governance and competitiveness, that the Philippines can be a Newly Industrializing Country (NIC) sooner than can be accomplished from its track record.

(The article reflects the personal opinion of the author and does not reflect the official stand of the Management Association of the Philippines. The author is the present private-sector Co-Chair of the National Competitiveness Council and former Secretary of the Department of Trade and Industry. Feedback: e-mail bautistacesar@yahoo.com.ph. For previous articles, please visit www.map.org.ph.)

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Smart bullish on '10 prospects

By Paolo G. Montecillo

Election spending good news for phone companies

SMART COMMUNICATIONS INC., the country's leading mobile network, expects the local telecommunications industry to prosper better this year as the global economy improves and the election campaign related spending pops up demand.

Napoleon Nazareno, president and CEO of Smart and its parent Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co. (PLDT), was optimistic about prospects for 2010, despite the resurging of the mobile telephony market.

"With the elections coming, and the economy also improving, it should be a better year for the industry as a whole," Nazareno said.

Nazareno spoke to reporters on the sidelines of the launch last Friday of the new officers of the Economic Journalists Association of the Philippines.

The Philippines is one of the world's most mature markets for telephony, which pertains to call and text services, while above an 80 percent penetration rate.

The broadband Internet space has been tagged as the next battleground for telecommunications firms in the Philippines.

But while he says he's hopeful that 2010 would turn out to be a better year for the industry, the official was mum on the public issues of last week's congressional probe about PLDT billionaire Lucio Tan.

This is slightly higher than the P481 billion net income the company posted in 2008.

PLDT, owned by Hong Kong-based First Pacific Holdings Ltd. and Japan's NTT DoCoMo, is the country's largest telecommunications firm.

The company ended 2009 with about 40 million subscribers, nearly double the number of subscribers of its nearest rival, Ayala-controlled Globe Telecom Inc., which has 22 million users in its fold.

PLDT, through Smart also leads in the broadband Internet arena with over 1 million subscribers.

Pag-IBIG eyes P50B in housing loans in '10

By Michelle V. Ramos

THE HOME MUTUAL DEVELOPMENT Fund (Pag-IBIG) plans to extend P50 billion worth of housing loans to its members this year to address the country's housing backlog of 2.36 million homes.

This is a slight increase from the P48.7 billion worth of loans extended last year.

According to Pag-IBIG President Jose Ma. Castro, who also chairs the Housing and Urban Development Coordinating Council (HUDCC), the umbrella organization of housing-related government agencies, the increase this year would help build at least 200,000 socialized or low-cost houses, thereby reducing the housing backlog to only 2.16 million.

During the 4th Philippine Housing Summit held last week, De Castro said in a speech that he expects more members to apply for a loan because of reduced interest rates.

A loan worth a maximum of P400,000, for example, would be charged only 6 percent from 7 percent.

Loans worth between P400,000 and P500,000, meanwhile, are charged an interest of 7 percent, while those worth P500,000 to P2 million are charged 10.5 percent.

"We established an environment of low interest rates ... It used to be that Pag-IBIG was only giving out around P6 billion in housing loans a year. Now, we have been extending much bigger amounts of loans," De Castro said in Filipino.

Housing officials said the goal of erasing the backlog was slowly being achieved through the loans extended to build low-cost and socialized houses.

Jose Ramon Gotianun, president of the Home Guaranty Corp. (HGC), said that as of end of last year, 2.36 million houses needed to be built so that every Filipino family has shelter.

Officials said the number is still big, but was an improvement from the 2.55 million registered in 2008.

Bangsamoro said that HGC, the state-owned firm in charge of providing guarantees to housing loans, will help Pag-IBIG achieve the goal of reducing the housing backlog.

He said HGC aims to extend more guarantees to housing loans and more people will find it easier to secure loans.

Sunwest readies investment of P3.96B in hydro projects

By Amy R. Remo

SUNWEST WATER AND ELECTRIC CO. Inc. is spending some P3.96 billion (or $86 million) over the next two years, for the pre-development of its 14 proposed hydropower projects.

Generating via the Department of Energy, the amount would be used to develop the projects, which are expected to generate some 44 megawatts in additional capacity.

These projects have already been granted renewable energy pre-development service contracts early this month.

Under a renewable energy service contract, a company will initially be given one years within the pre-development stage, which involves the preliminary assessment and feasibility study up to financial closing of the renewable energy project.

DOE data showed that Sunwest has two proposed hydropower projects in Antique (Bodbod and Cubay) with a combined capacity of 5.1 MW.

It also has one planned project in San Miguel, Camarines, with an estimated capacity of 2.4 MW; three in Bukidnon, Albay (13.7 MW); four in Libmanan, Aklan (22.8 MW); one in Dingalan, Aurora (1 MW); and three in Catarman and Pambalanan, Cagayan (13 MW).

Last Friday, the government awarded a new batch of 8 service contracts, which included six for hydropower projects.

These are expected to generate 6.6 MW combined and bring in some P11.4 billion in fresh investments.

The government has been pushing for the development of the local renewable energy sector as this would help bring in the much-needed power capacities and reserve energy security.

According to government data, the Philippines has an estimated 18,600 MW in hydropower resources.

Shell seeks Malampaya extension

By Amy R. Remo

SHELL PHILIPPINES EXPLORATION BV is seeking a 15-year extension of its license for the Malampaya deep water to gas power project off Palawan, as a pursuance to its obligation to the area covered by Service Contract (SC) 38.

According to Sebastian C. Quintana Jr., SPEX managing director, this will extend the consortium's SC 38 license up to 2039 from 2024, the year when the license would have expired under the original agreement.

Quintana's stated the company's application for an extension would be "part of the GSPA [gas sale and purchase agreement], and we're just executing ... we right as operator."

The Malampaya consortium is currently composed of Shell—the operator of the field—and Chevron Malampaya LLC. Each has a 45 percent stake, while PNOC Exploration Corp. holds a 10 percent stake.

The two companies also allow the consortium to proceed with its planned development within the service contract area.

With the planned drilling activities in SC 38, the consortium hopes to find more gas reserves, Quintana said.

The $4.5 billion Malampaya deep water gas-to-power project currently supplies 2,700 MW of natural gas to the 1,200 MW Ilijan plant of Ilijan Electric Power Corp., 1,000 MW Sta. Rita and 500 MW San Lorenzo plants, all in Batangas.

Selling pressure seen ...

From page B1

According to ideaMarketscape firm IDCapital Online, the selling trend on the Philippine Stock Exchange may continue as derivative contracts for Dow Futures indicate a sell-down in the New York Stock Exchange.

Last week, the Federal Reserve raised the cost of borrowing for banks that tap its emergency lending window—a move seen by many Fed watchers as the second step in a series of moves that will eventually restore interest rates to pre-crisis levels.

In general, higher interest rates have an adverse effect on stock prices.

"Furthermore, investors will be keen to look in on the profits obtained during the closing tax-cap," analyst Primo Anthony Nong said in a research note to the firm's clients.

With the recent six-day rally cutting the PSE Index by more than 330 points, the decline on Thursday and Friday last week has so far only led to a loss of 65 points, he explained.

(KEVIN L. LAGOS)

BPO sector shifts focus

From page B1

ing turnover and increasing performance," he said.

"The industry is growing to the tune of 2,000 new hires every week. It's going to grow as many as we've seen seven years (in) last few years in terms of more sophisticated BPO and knowledge process outsourcing services," he said. "The future for the next decade is bright. The biggest challenge is the political and educational/infrastructure issues."

In an earlier presentation, Business Processing Association of the Philippines executive director for infrastructure and research Gilbert Japer Viana said the BPO sector generated 70,000 new jobs last year, bringing the industry total to 441,164 employees.

The industry likewise registered more than $7.2 billion in revenues in 2009, a 19 percent increase from 2008's $6.1 billion.

For this year, he said the industry expected a rapid build-up activity in the first half, as well as a greater diversity of service offerings.

In terms of challenges, the BPO sector would be keen to contend with the negative perception that the country suffered abroad and the need to relieve government support for the industry, she said.

Intertek

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The Government of the Philippines has approved new legislation, which introduces fundamental changes to importation procedures for bulk or break-bulk for the Philippines. It has been mandatory for these shipments to undergo an inspection for Quality, Quantity and Dutiable Value at the port of origin by an approved surveying company.

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INFOTECH

A laptop that means business

By Raquel P. Gomez

LENOVO HAS COME out with a new series of affordable business laptops for small to medium-sized businesses (SMBs).

The new ThinkPad Edge laptop series, which come in 13-inch, 14-inch and 15-inch models, are the first business laptops from Lenovo that run on AMD dual-core processors.

The ThinkPad Edge 13-inch model, priced at only P58,999, is already a good performing laptop, boasting of dual core AMD Neo X2 processor and a dedicated ATI Radeon HD3200 graphics card.

With these specs, coupled with VGA port and HDMI port, the ThinkPad Edge essentially can do more multimedia functions than a netbook or a thin and light C/ULV (consumer ultra low voltage) notebooks that don't have discrete graphics.

In physical looks, the ThinkPad Edge deviates away from the traditional color, black (like their ThinkPad is known) is.

Sleek

With a sleek silver lined framing a matte black laptop exterior, the ThinkPad Edge design seems more to popular rather than business tastes.

Relatively thin and light, the laptop features a contemporary spill-proof keyboard with "chiclet" or floating keys.

It also features a large multi-touch touchpad that provides a comfortable landing pad for fingers to do pinching, zooming or scrolling.

It doesn't have an optical drive but it does have three USB ports and a card reader.

Physical features that still say the ThinkPad Edge is a Lenovo business laptop are the red trackball at the center of the keyboard and the classic dish keys on top of the multitouch pad.

Value added

Positioned as a business laptop, the ThinkPad Edge has a lot to offer in terms of free and useful applications or suites.

Yahoo added apps include the ThinkVantage Tools, featuring diagnostic tools that keep the PC always running on peak performance. It also features the Active System and Rescue and Recovery to ensure protection of the user's data.

Internet connections, password vault, power management (for extending the life of the battery) and hard drive protection is also bundled by ThinkVantage Tools.

Beyond ThinkVantage, the ThinkPad Edge also carry Lenovo's suite of service and support, like ThinkPad protection (to protect users from unexpected repair costs in case of accidents), 24/7 tech-to-tech support, and hard disk drive retention that lets customers keep their failed or damaged hard disk drive.

Fit for a tight budget

Since the ThinkPad Edge runs on an AMD processor platform and has a dedicated graphics card that makes screen resolution finer and brighter, the battery life falls just within four hours on average usage (web browsing and word typing).

If you're playing flash games, watching movies, editing photos, or changing major formats, you will be taking a lot more system resources that may quickly drain the battery.

Businesses with tight budgets will find the ThinkPad Edge a good alternative to new Duo people with.

30,000 APPS AND COUNTING

Step right up! Ericsson's eStore is now open

THE APPLICATIONS arena in the wireless industry appears to be getting more exciting as Ericsson joins the fray by unveiling its own applications market called eStore.

Officially launched at the start of the Mobile World Congress (MWC) in Barcelona last week, eStore is designed for any mobile smartphone.

It is, however, not directly aimed at end-consumers but at operators who wish to set up and offer mobile phone users an application store.

The eStore has already more than 30,000 applications that are downloadable to any mobile phone, Ericsson executive officer Hans Vestberg said in a press conference on the first day of the MWC.

Content for 1,000 handsets

Some of the applications are free while others are not.

Content is available for thousands of handset models, and applications are continuously sold – but for many of the most popular smartphones in the market.

"Our ellcon makes it possible for the user to access a wide collection of applications from any mobile phone of choice. At the same time, it also provides an opportunity for operators to increase their revenues," Jan Wareby, company senior vice president and head of business unit multimedia, said in a statement.

Open to developers

Under the existing business setup, revenue will be shared by the operator and Ericsson, although Wareby said his company would be retaining a small percentage of it.

Ericsson teamed up with Open Software AB, which provided the client framework for widgets and application cross-access multiple channels and devices.

eStore developers can get their applications on to the ecosystem by posting them on the developer site.

This can also be tapped by media brands, event organizers, enterprises and other content owners.

"So far, eStore is open to all application developers. Openness is important to everyone our develop applications," the Ericsson CEO said. Carrie Solomon-Marlowe

Samsung packs Michael Jackson in portable HDD

SEOUL, KOREA—SAMSUNG Electronics Co. Ltd. recently launched its S2 Portable, a fully rechargeable external hard drive, pre-loaded with the movie "Michael Jackson's This is It."

Bound with the DVD and Blu-ray disc release of "Michael Jackson's THIS IS IT," the pre-loaded external HDD is going to be available in major electronics retailers this week. Availability in other regions will be determined following the initial launch.

"We are excited to present this movie starring Michael Jackson, the greatest entertainer of all time, pre-loaded on the Samsung S2 Portable," said H.S. Lee, vice president, Storage Marketing, Samsung Electronics.

Samsung's S2 Portable has an increased capacity of 500GB and its ingenious data recovering technology makes it the perfect solution for the increasing number of consumers who are building their personal movie collections on their PCs.

In addition to the pre-loaded "Michael Jackson movie, the Samsung S2 Portable boasts USB On-Board Technology and supports various user-friendly features, such as Samsung Auto Backup that enables real-time or scheduled backup, and SecuDrive™ that encrypts and stores data on a secure drive.

Also, there is SafeStyle™, a powerful data-security function that offers dual data protection through a password.

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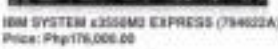

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LIFESTYLE Arts&Books

"SILENCE," by Leo Lim

Would you like to own some art?

By Katrina Stuart Santiago
Contributor

PUBLIC ART AS IMAGINED by every other person can be every other thing you see installed in a public space: the decorations within the confines of a mall; the huge sculptures that change the façade of a building; the landscape of a park. But when it is imagined by the people behind the Museum Foundation of the Philippines, public-art gains new meaning.

For one Saturday every year, art becomes publicly accessible, not merely by simply admiring it within a public space, but also through an art fair that inspires that all pieces sell below P20,000. And, as we are reminded by the people behind Art in the Park, many of the works sell way below that price.

Here, the point is art acquisitions; the goal is to start people collecting Pinoy art, removing it from its way too high perch.

RYAN O.

Duemila, Mandarin celebrate Tiger Year with art show

LILLIBOY DUMBLA AND THE Mandarin Oriental Manila welcome the year of the Metal Tiger with "Emergent Energy," an exhibition of Ramon Diaz, Cesar Caballero and Roberto Robles.

Featuring 16 pieces installed at the Carpenter's Bar and the Clipper Lounge, it is a powerful explosion of light and color.

"The theme is positive, expanding and aggressive—a steady progress that assimilates everything that comes into its fold and pushes forward," says Silvana Dias, exhibit curator and art director of Galleria Duemila.

"Through their art is very different, they all express the same principles of visual harmony, dynamic energy in their works," says Dias.

In "The Conquests," Ramon Diaz, a figurative artist and sculptor, depicts

BIMBA G.

"VAMORING Ginoto Daiky Fodo Criminio," former entry by Jon Barrera

"PORTRAIT of Rev. Fr. Rolando de la Rosa, OP," commissioned portrait by previous winner Alfredo Esquillo

"UNTITLED," oil on canvas by Rosalida Ramirez

"UNTITLED," oil on canvas by Mark Salvatus

UST national on-the-spot painting contest slated Feb. 25

THE UNIVERSITY OF SANTO TOMAS (UST) will hold its biennial Inter-School On-the-Spot Painting Competition (OSPC) on Feb. 25. This year's theme is "Mag-ina: Larawan ng Yaman ng Bulilit a Kabuhayan" ("Mother and Child: Portrait of Cultural and Material Heritage").

Fr. Isidro Abaño, OP, director of the UST Museum, which organizes the show with the UST Office of Secretary General, says the year's contest seeks to dominate the important role of the Filipino mother and her children in today's changing society. "The theme encourages among the youth a return to the values that the concepts of both Mother and Nature instill in our nurturing instincts for people and our environment."

The contest will be held at the Benavidez Garden fronting the UST Main Building, or strictly declared a Medicinal Cultural Tree zone by the National Museum.

Past entrants from UST have become emerging artists of our time: Alfredo Esquillo, Rolando Bautista, Joe Sumcena, Mark Salvatus, to name a few.

Last year, Lenee Kirby T. Yecares, a senior Advertising Arts student of the Ateneo "Sanang" Rodriguez Institute of Science and Technology (Diliman), won the grand prize.

2009 WINNERS: "Let's Paint the Town" (left), by Lenee Kirby Yecares (Grand), first; "Bigay-ng Lambat" (above), by Rosalie Sarmiento (Lara), third, and "Building Hope" (top right), by Kris Jan Gaston (Food), second

Kris Jan R. Gaston of Siain University, and Rosalie M. Lara of Luna, won second and third prizes, respectively.

The winners were among 384 students who joined. Aside from Siain and Luna, students of Adventist University of the Philippines, Bulacan State University, College of the Holy Spirit, the Eastern University, Philippine Women's University, St. Scholastica's College, Technological University of the Philippines, University of the East (Caloocan), University of the Philippines and UST participated.

The contest is open to bona fide Fine Arts students from universities and colleges in and around Metro Manila.

Registration starts at 7:30 a.m. Competition runs 8:30 a.m.–5 p.m.

Prize, second and third prize-winners will receive P40,000, P25,000 and P20,000, respectively. Three honorable mentions will receive P6,000 each.

The year's judges are architect-interior designer Jonathan Hoar; gallery owner and art leader Silvana Dial; and artists Cindy Pangilinan. Dan is chair.

The winning entries will be on exhibit at the UST Museum's Main Gallery, Feb. 25–March 15.

For more information, call the UST Archaeological Studies Program at 731-3433 or 406-1611 loc. 8268 and ask for Prof. Di Leon.

Would you like to own some art?

From page C1

In this sense, it is also about artists who challenge the basic idea of art as something that can only be hung in rich people's homes, or in galleries and libraries where they can be looked at but not held.

It's also the easiest venue for selling new and experimental work that might not find a sell-just-of-an exhibit, or may not be priced high enough for it.

For Jennifer Tejido of Bachelor ng Kartungan (BK), the children's book illustrators organization she has been active in since Bush is also about selling the originals of members' works previously published in books.

This is interesting in two ways. First, it's a reminder of how the images in a children's book are actually independent of the texts they are published with, an unorthodox idea whose seeds stand on their own as pieces of art.

Second, it's an enviable reason on artists' rights in their works, as the illustrators of BK retain 100 percent ownership of their works despite its being published in a book. This latter fact is a reminder for writers who lose all rights in a text at the point of publication.

"FREEDOM Bird," by Jennifer Tejido

Audience involvement

Tejido's BK is but one of 20 galleries and organizations that have consistently been part of Art in the Park, and have found it quite a fruitful endeavor, if not an infinitely interesting enterprise of touching base with the contemporary Pinoy art audience. This might even be true for artists who end up exhibiting their works within the park's limitations and beyond. This past, Lauryn Ness's and Lee Lunn's murals still be the consequence of Art in the Park.

Starting Ness as exhibiting artist will mean seeing science fiction-inspired mixed-media installations. Taking his works out of the gallery and into this public space will embolden only month a different kind of audience involvement as Ness's work as well, strange and seemingly unfamiliar as they are, problematizing as they do. Third World Philippines' place in anthropology and possibility.

Lee will install murals inspired by the park itself, particularly the paths that it creates for the public and the possibility of maneuvering in the act of walking.

Installing carvings from trees, Lee hopes that disturbing what would otherwise be an environmentally-unfriendly natural environment is the art that will hang from the trees, and maybe someone trying out the carvings.

About translation

The translation of life and one's story to fans, and, in fact, seems to inform much of what movies love about what she does. She is part of the small group that does translations, a photo-inspired comic strip that first appeared as art work on walls, which was always painted over and erased soon enough.

Which is really what a project such as this is the Dark is about. Public art, after all, is about transience. It is about being involved in a piece of art, as the given moment that is appears often is.

It's about not being able to imagine the possibility of ownership, for how does one own that moment when carnage intervenes in your path, or solemn debris-fractures torpedo your views of a park's landscape?

At the same time, Art in the Park's commitment to an affordable art fair reminds us that music art is still accessible, not just in terms of appreciation, but, more importantly, in terms of acquisition.

Art in the Park takes place at Ayala Malakas, Makati City, on Feb. 27, 2 p.m.–10 p.m. It is organized by the Museum Foundation of the Philippines with the help of Bingo Art and Security Bank Museum.

VISUAL ARTS

Various artists at Hiraya

Works by Norberto Dacuiag, Fernando Modesto, Manuel Ocampo, Jojo Antonio, Lindy Lee, Ronald Agag, Vincent Balandra, Randall Dela are featured in "In Transit, In Process," running until March 6 at Hiraya Gallery (100 Lindenhurst Avenue, Loyola, Quezon City; 426-0325, 920-1011 or e-mail hiraya@info.com.ph or visit the website www.hiraya.com).

"UNTITLED," by Fernando Modesto

"SEMILAR, Finish," by Norberto Dacuiag

Nunion at Artes Orientes

Frances Nunion Jr.'s "Nunion" is running at Artes Orientes (101, Pre Bridge at Serendra, Bonifacio Global City, Taguig; tel. 856-8847). It features his technique of applying etched surfaces on solid blocks of color in several layers. The images, mostly women, are cloud-like and portrayed resembling artifacts of the South.

"WOMan Love," by Francis Nunion Jr.

French artist at Alliance, Silverlens

More Lethbridge's exhibition, "France Face Lift," deals with French identity. It is the second showing of a visual artist looking at his homeland as if it were it. As if he were a tourist from land-mining facts discovering the clichés and stereotypes of a stereotypically romanticized. It runs at Alliance Française Elite Gallery (www.alliance.ph; www.silverlens.com) until Feb. 28.

"UNTITLED," by Mark Salvatus

Solivan at Magnet

In "Chaos Works," painter and sculptor Nestor Solivan's fifth solo exhibition, she ventures in both a process and an outcome. Dispersed in several large-scale oil-on-canvas paintings filled with thousands of overlapping, textured brush strokes, the show becomes a result and reminiscence over time and process. The exhibit runs until Feb. 25 in Magnet Gallery (1330 Aguio Building, Katipunan Avenue, Loyola Heights, QC; tel. 920-3181; www.magnetgalleries.com).

"UNTITLED," by Nestor Solivan

Reyes at Lulo Dad's

"All You Need Is Love," a Valentine's exhibit by Jessica Reyes, runs until March 14 at Lulo Dad's Restaurante (GF, #760 Bldg., Ayala Ave., Makati; e-mail lulodadsrestaurante@yahoo.com). It is curated by Rocco Benavidez and Carlo Ignacio.

"FOREVER Rose by Jessica Reyes

Various shows in Nineveh, Laguna

Five shows run in Nineveh Artspace (Villa Intsegan, Sta. Cruz, Laguna; tel. 0917-553-0393): "Fragile Silhouettes" by Art Sanchez Jr.; "I Really Love" by Raynard Mejares; "Tree Tree" by Raynard Mejares; "Sacong Pangnagisa" by Jeff and Erica Salon; Pura Antonio gold shoes from recent works.

"PINOE," by Raynard "Bam" Mejares

Duemila, Mandarin celebrate Tiger Year...

From page C1

"BIRTH of the Tigers," by Roberto Robles

"COMING Up," by Coco Caballero

the evenings and fearlessness of a majestic feline reigning over its dominion. To balance the proud feral grace of the tiger, Chinese celebrations give a feeling of peace, abundance and harmony.

A diptych by abstractionist Robles, titled "Tiger's Iris and Tiger's Tail," represents the duality of the tiger, an animal admired for both its feminine power and elegant wit. According to the artist, "Tiger's Iris" represents the mood—the spirit of the tiger as reflected in its eyes. "Tiger's Tail" is the fluid movement and flexibility of a predator stalking its prey.

"In 'Four Eyes,'" by Caballero, is the steady gaze of the tiger rendered in vital and energetic circles of earthen reds and deep yellow, hues that evoke both the heritage of Spain, the land of Caballero's birth, and the elemental colors of earth and fire in Chinese astrology.

"In the Chinese New Year many with the symbol of the metal tiger, the combination of elements is necessary in the creation of metal. Life spans its way. The tiger is emerging from the ashes, ready to pounce, resurgent in the space of the canvas," says Caballero.

"Emergent Energy" is part of the Chinese emblem's New Year celebrations hosted at Mandarin Oriental Manila. The event also features Chinese musicians; a dumpling-making activity; and a cocktail buffet of Chinese food.

"Emergent Energy" runs until Feb. 28 at Mandarin Oriental Manila, Makati City. Call Jeannelle (+6632) 403-9813, e-mail jeannelle@mandarinoriental.com or visit the website at www.mandarinoriental.com.

The gallery is at 2/F Living St., Pasay City.

AGAINTO Robles, Ramon Diaz, Chinese Ambassador Liu Jianchao, Quilmela Duemila's Shirma Diaz, Mandarin Oriental Manila GM Mark Bradford and Coco Caballero

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SM Development Corporation brings its own take on cosmopolitan living to Mandaluyong with the launch of Light Residences, its latest condominium project at the heart of the tiger city.

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Homes within this sprawling complex also promise to provide comfort and security. Designed to be modern, efficient, and flexible, available units include a good-sized Studio (20 sqm), one-bedroom with balcony (27.38 sqm), and two-bedroom (31.75 sqm). Tower 1 will rise at 42 stories, while Towers 2 and 3 will be at 40 stories.

The buildings will be maintained by a Property Management Group which will attend to such needs as unit leasing, handyman services and housekeeping services at reasonable rates. These value-added services provide additional comfort to residents even as they enjoy a 5-star living experience.

Light Residences is one of the many exciting projects of SM Development Corporation across the metro. With its credo "Five-star homes in prime locations, now affordable", SM Development Corporation offers residential complexes that boast topnotch quality and service, in enviable locations and at very light payment terms.

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It's Benjie Diola season

'Oliver Twist' will go onstage at Rodelsa Hall in Cagayan de Oro on Feb. 24-27

By Hazel Pastrano
Contributor

GUAM-BASED BENJIE DIOLA is back in the Philippine South to direct school plays.

His last did "Thirteen Daughters," a comedy about a Chinese father looking for the right husbands for his unmarriageable daughters, for the Sacred Heart School (Ateneo de Iloilo) in Cebu City. He is set to open the musical "Oliver Twist" (Lionel Bart's "Oliver!") on Feb. 24 for Lycée de Cagayan Elementary in Cagayan de Oro City.

"If one remembers," he said, "I did eight productions in one season: 'Oliver Twist' for Springdale (a very exclusive Protestant school in Cebu City); 'West Side Story' and 'Middle Ages' for the Jesuit-run Ateneo Music; 'Blues' for St. Theresa's College; 'South Pacific' for Lyceo U; 'Where Does Song Go' for Ateneo while a play I directed 25 years ago in Tokyo, 'Gogyo Tsuitotatsu,' was revived in Ateneo, too."

He is excited about his upcoming production: "Kumulo," an original musical in Chamorro (the indigenous language in Guam) about how the Our Lady of Fatima emerged Oceania's shipwreck in the 1600s and flooded it into a lake(s).

A Guam resident for 33 years, Diola has received the Lifetime Achievement Award for the Performing Arts from the governor of Guam.

"In the theme park, all the other lifetime achievement awardees were dead.... and I didn't know how to deal with my award," Diola recalled once in his unmistakable gutbra.

Even in his hometown, he has been honored, as Outstanding Citizen in the Field of the Performing Arts from the City of Iloilo.... and once that twice.

In 2000 he directed the opening and closing ceremonies of the South Pacific Games in Guam.

"I directed over 1,000 participants," he recalled.

He has also directed grand ceremonies for the Micronesian Games, which included delegates from such countries as Australia and New Zealand.

Notable roles

"Theater," he declared, "is simply my life."

True to form, Diola had his stage debut when he was five months old.

"I was held (but at that very young age, I played Baby Jesus) in a play called 'Lahing Filipino,' which was produced in Libon City," he said.

The youngster in a funeral (!), Diola was doted on and was reared in the exciting world of the performing arts. His eldest sister was a pianist and voice teacher, while a brother is in a concert orchestra.

At Colegio de la Inmaculada Concepcion in Cebu City, where he spent his intermediary school years, he got into the whirl of school plays in dramatis.

"Nitoks was how we called them," he recalled. "One director was the venerable Monsignor Romero."

Another brilliant director, the young Diola says, was one further. He took up ballet at the Ballet Theatre under Madame Fe Villarosa in Cebu City. "In Iloilo my body and intellect discipline," he said.

His domestic flair did not go unnoticed in the ballet school, Said he, "I always got the choreography roles."

In "Peter and the Wolf," he was the wolf. In "The Three Little Pigs," he was the wolf. In the musical "Hansel n Rambers," he was seen with the prized role of the leprechaun.

STAGE debut: as two months old

"By then I was 16 years old. I could dance and sing and act," he said.

Many persons in the audience remembered for the roles I played."

In "Irene Cruz, Superstar," he usurped two memorable roles: King Herod and the Diners of the 39 Ladies. "The director just left me to my own devices."

Theater icon

In 1993, he directed his first professional play, "Evil Eye." It was an original dance drama.

"I was inspired by the music of Black-smith Lardie," he said.

So a theater, pointed out Lilia Quiz's high-society theater critic, "I like to work with children. They have such talent and energy and drive. They can act and sing and dance all at the same time. All I need to do is provide discipline. Because they are a discipline."

Some 30 years ago, his eyes on Guam. "I came here basically to go to Guam. And Diola has since built a home on top of a twenty hill there.

"I have taught at 14 different schools there. I taught drama. But my biggest dream is to have a theater in Guam. Every three months, I encourage my dancers: Be piano here, the solo there, and elsewhere again."

But he can't help it—"I return home to the Philippines, maybe, one night times a year," he admitted.

He goes his life and career. Two productions in Guam, four productions in Cebu, one production in Cagayan de Oro City, and then another four passes.

The week, for instance, his shifting productions of "Oliver Twist" will go onstage at Rodelsa Hall in Cagayan de Oro on Feb. 24-27, with 2:30 p.m. matinees and 7:30 p.m. gala performances.

The two is at the heart of the celebrations of the 97th Foundation Day of Liceo de Cagayan University. (For tickets, call Liceo U's Office of General and Public Affairs at 088-8580002 to 05 loc. 2401.)

Summing up, Diola said, "I am a director, a set designer, a costume designer, a lighting designer, and all that and more, but first and foremost, I consider myself a teacher. Because that is the secret of success anywhere!"

And practically every in life!

A LOOK from "Oliver Twist"

One of 'Oprah's' top kids is bright spirit of Philippine theater

BATTLING SEVERE CONTINUE it is normal common for for 13-year-old soprano Julie Ahearn ("Children's Letters to God," "The Bernstein's"), Pinkerbell of Bids' young-creative company for its Encore! musical theater program.

"Young students must perform in shows that are fun for kids—musicals like Annie," Oliver! "The Sound of Music" and Disney shows," says Ahearn.

"Pinkerbell of Kids' Encore! musical theater program is basically targeting kids who want to hone their talents. Some people have negative thoughts about performing. Here, some kids don't get to develop their talents for we at Encore! encourage them. Kids are where fly when it comes to acting or singing because kids one age are inclined to more them or even see more things. But it's actually a real thing, and a lot of opportunities do exist in."

"In acting, the most important thing young you are, you can still live out your dreams," she adds.

Ahearn has performed in concerts and musicals in Singapore and the Philippines ever since she was 5 years old, sharing the stage with world-class singers Lea Salonga, Monique Wilson, Jeffrey Gilbert, among others.

JULIE Ahearn

She was even recently handpicked by Oprah Winfrey as one of the "World's Most Talented Kids." She manages to juggle schoolwork with her passion for singing commitments, including her recent performance at the 2009 APEC where she performed for US President Barack Obama and other world leaders.

Mentoring the Encore! musical theater program is international theater actress Jenny Jimenez who as Maria had the pleasure of working with in some of her past shows.

"She's a brilliant performer. I learned a lot about performing by just watching her," lauds Ahearn.

Encore!, the performing arts school, has it's own main theater at Brahma@Ortigas Mall where it serves as the Ortigas Center Hotel members, instructors and coordinators stage from experienced theater personalities, like multi-awarded director, TV and stage personality Lee Meyer and international theater actor Jake Macapagal.

Those who want to develop their talents and live their dreams of performing on stage can do so at Encore! It has a wide range of classes including Musical Theater, Voice and Piano Production.

Encore! students will be showcased in a concert on Feb. 27, at the Ateneo Pavilion of Rizal Gallery, Ortigas. Ahearn will be performing with them together with acclaimed international musicians Jon Schmidt and cellist Steven Daryl Sexton.

For more information about the Encore! musical theater program or for tickets to the concert, call 6342889 and 6346788; or visit them at Unit A, 11/F Strata 2000 Bldg. F. Ortigas Jr. Road, Ortigas Center. Visit www.encore-online.com.

Lauorena lecture series focuses on F. Sionil José, Cirilo Bautista

THE SECOND PAZ M. LAFORTEZA Lecture Series will feature National Artists Sionil José and Bautista on Feb. 25. 4 p.m.-5 p.m., at the multi-purpose room of the Faculty of Arts and Letters, University of Santo Tomas, Espana, Manila.

The lecture is held in honor of Laforteza (1907-1983), a member of the first generation of Filipino writers in English and considered a literary matriarch to today's generation of writers.

José will talk about the making of the Rizalist novel series, while Bautista will talk about his "Trilogy of Infant Lateness," his famous epic series on Philippine history.

Other speakers who will talk about José's and Bautista's literary achievements are Ms. Zeneida (UST), Shirley Lua (De La Salle University), Genaro Abad (UST), Ronald Baytan (ILIGS), and Rebecca Anonuevo Ordoñez and (UST).

The lectures are organized by the UST Faculty of Arts and Letters, Department of Humanities and the Literatarium. It is open to the public but slots are limited. For reservations, call or SMS Ronald Lopez (0917-5373681) or Ralph Galan (0920-9328639).

LIFESTYLE Arts&Books

"GREEN Kiss," by Manuel Rodriguez Sr.

Learning visual art through Purita

PORTRAIT of Purita Kalaw Ledesma, by Carlos "Botong" V. Francisco

By Amadis Ma. Guerrero
Contributor

IN 1972, THERE erupted a controversy between the Cultural Center of the Philippines, per project of First Lady Imelda Marcos, and several artists.

What the flap was all about I have long since forgotten, but one of those whom I interviewed for my magazine, the Graphic, was the iconic Purita Kalaw Ledesma, founder of the Art Association of the Philippines (AAP), which had been instrumental in the development of Modern Art in the country.

So I wrote the story, giving both sides. It was published and I forgot all about it, moving to other assignments.

And then, on Sept. 21 that year, martial law was imposed upon the country and newspaper and magazines, except the crony-owned Daily Express, were padlocked.

This dictator Ferdinand Marcos had a score to settle with the Graphic, among other media outlets. For it ran editorials, columns and articles, we had been highly critical of Marcos and his wife and their conjugal dictatorship. One of the journalists arrested was our editor, Luis Beltrán. And several staff members, most militant than me, were on the run, hunted by the military.

So there I was, angry, distraught and jobless, when I learned through some relatives and friends that Ms. Purita Kalaw Ledesma, the

(continued on A2)

Daughter of Teodoro Kalaw has bequeathed her art collection to the nation

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BABY BLUES — By JERRY SCOTT

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KIKO MACHINE — By HANS ABRERA

SHERMAN'S LAGOON — By JIM TOOMEY

HOROSCOPE

By FRANCIS DRAKE

ARIES (March 21 to April 19): This is a busy day, full of new contacts, new ideas and new discoveries. Be open to what comes to you.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20): Make friends with your bank account. Stay in touch with your cash flow closely. Stay in touch with your money sense in how you are using it.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20): Because the Moon is in your sign today, you have such a little bit of extra speed built into the scheduling if you want a "can" answer. You can make use of it.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22): Work alone or behind the scenes today if possible. You want a little peace and quiet. Others have very demanding needs!

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22): A private investigator is very good to talk today. In fact, you can benefit by sharing your dreams and hopes for the future with others. Make sure these feedback could be helpful to you.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22): Certain details about your private life are suddenly made public today, especially in front of lenders, employers, authority figures. Be prepared for this.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22): Try to do something different today. Shake it up a little! If you've been scheduling time or an acceptance you've never been before, you'll find it rewarding and satisfying.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21): Your communication could get a whole lot weird, you might need to find an ally support and an income problem. This is the day to think about these practical issues.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21): Be prepared to go over time talking when dealing with others today, because the tendency to actively opposite your own. It's not a big deal. You can do this.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19): Make time to do the hobby and exercise work you can get done. Whatever you do to get better organized in your life will contribute to better health.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18): Sports, cruises, games, parties, music auditions, playful activities with children, play time, romantic interludes and love affairs are all tops on the menu for you today! Have a blast!

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20): Spend time today focusing on family events or gathering present and future if possible. You want to pay more attention to parents and your domestic scene.

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HOW TO PLAY SU DOKU

Fill the grid so that every column, every row and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 to 9. Tips and programs at www.sudoku.com.

Concepts Sudoku

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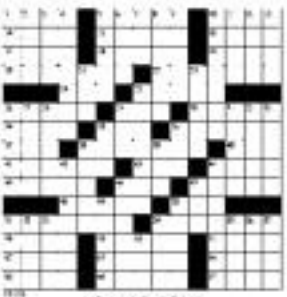


Learning visual art . . .

From page B1

Ledesma was looking high and low for me. I immediately connected her.

"Oh Amalia, I'm so glad you called," I remember her saying this.

It turned out she was doing a history of the AAP and needed someone who could write, who would be her literary arm but who, as the group constantly pointed out, knew "next to nothing" about visual art.

She had tried working with noted art critics but these had their own set ideas on art, and they had only ended up "quarrelling." At for me, she said, she had been impressed by the way I handled the CCP controversy story, focusing on the antigravity and disregarding the nonsensicals.

Ties and friendship

Purita was one of the children of the distinguished scholar Teodoro M. Kalaw, who had been a friend of my grandfather, poet Fernando Ma. Guerrero. Purita herself was a friend of my aunt Carmen Guerrero Nakpil, the essayist, and uncle Dr. Mario X. Guerrero, who could have been a successful painter had he not pursued a career in medicine.

So there were ties and friendship between the Kalaw and Guerrero families, with some members being involved in important historical and cultural activities during the 20th century.

And then I worked on the project. For over two years, I would go to the elegant Kalaw-Ledesma residence in Dasmariñas Village, Makati, whose dining room was dominated by a large abstract painting by Fernando N. Domingo.

Purita turned over to me all her voluminous materials on the subject of art in the Philippines, from the seminal show of Victorio C. Edades in 1928 to all significant developments till the late 1960s.

I took down copious notes, listened to her intelligent discussion of the major works and personalities of the period, young and old, with some like Botong Francisco gone to their reward. We interviewed Domingo, Victorio Manansala and others who had left—or were making—their mark on Philippine art.

She knew them all: Arturo Luz, Malang, Napoleon Abueva, Manuel Rodrigues, Elizabeth Chan, Cesar Legaspi, Arsie Magsaysay-Ho, Fernando Zobel, Juvenal Sanso, along with the younger generation like Manuel Baldemor, Danilo Dalena, Roberto Chabet, Prudencio Lamarroza, David Medalla, Eduardo Castrillo, the Ocampo brothers et al.

Era ended

The book, "The Struggle for Philippine Art," was published in 1974. Five years later, we came out with another volume, "Edades: National Artist," but that's another story.

When Purita passed on in 2005 at the age of 95, an era had ended for me, for she had been both mentor and friend.

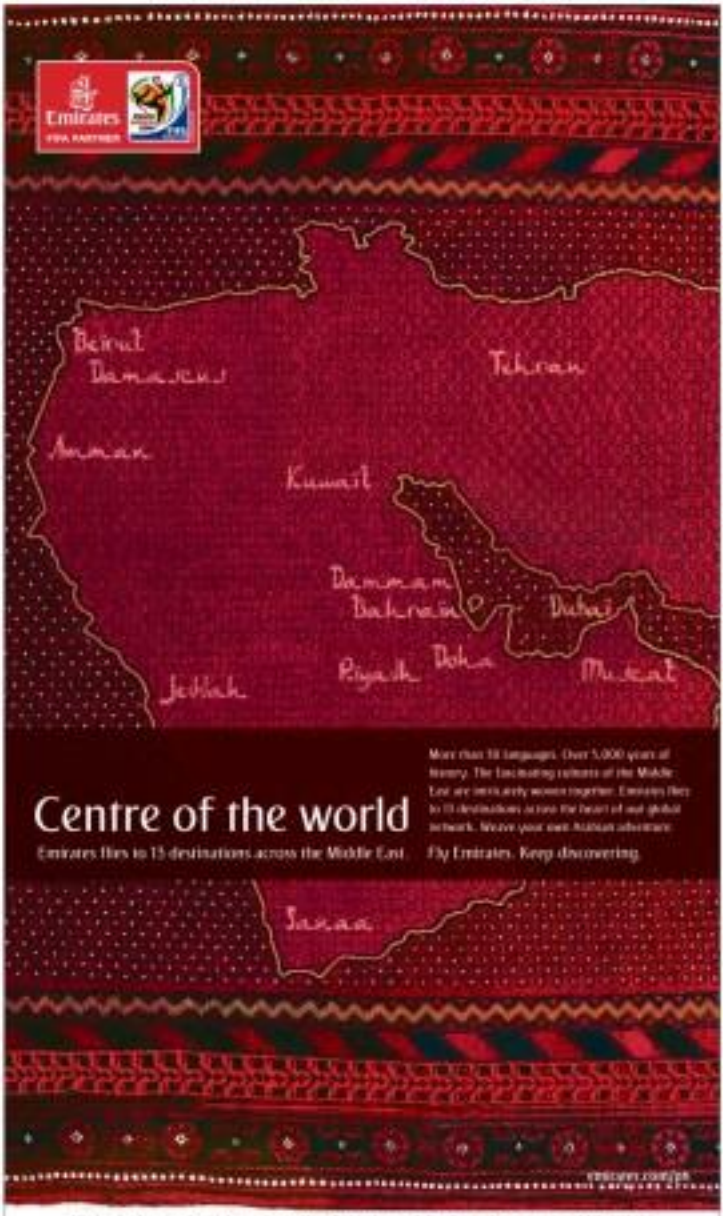
She was not just an art historian and painter (formally trained under the old Escuela de Bellas Artes along with Manansala, Botong, and musician Antonino Buenaventura), she was also an art collector with unerring critical skill.

Like a true naturalist and daughter of Don Teodoro M. Kalaw, she has bequeathed her art collection to the nation. These are now on display at the Ayala Museum in Makati City until May 3. The show is not to be missed by any lover of Philippine visual art.

"BAHALAUT," by Vicente Manansala

"THE DIGGERS," by Cesar Legaspi

"FIGHTING-COCK," by Diosdado Lorenzo



"ART IS WHEN THE HEART GUIDES THE HAND."

–VICTORIO EDADES

Once again, Rockwell breaks away from local design conventions with Edades Tower and Garden Villas. Edades creates the co-existence of a tower containing Garden 2-Lofts jutting out of the Manila landscape, and chic garden villas in a playful cluster of tri-level units. There's a piazza to house select retail establishments, apart from the exclusive tunnel access where you can enjoy your dining and shopping experience at the Power Plant Mall.

These are just some of Edades' life-enriching features, reflective of National Artist Edades' revolutionary aesthetic. It's the latest piece in the Rockwell masterplan where art inspires and steers the creation of form that is always delightful and never ordinary.

EDADES
TOWER AND GARDEN VILLAS

Visit the Rockwell Information Center or call 793-8088

ROCKWELL

THE INDOOR GARDENS OF EDADES: ANOTHER ROCKWELL FIRST

"GARDENING IS THE ART THAT USES FLOWERS AND PLANTS AS PAINT, AND THE SOIL AND SKY AS CANVAS".

–ELIZABETH MURRAY

Before MP3 players and cellphones became staples of modern living, a patch of soil and a bag of seeds were all that people needed for sustenance and self-reliance. Other than planting for food, gardening was also an accessible opportunity for creativity and self-expression. A green landscape could reflect a personal sense of style, such as an elegant English garden of roses and herbs, or an exotic and luxuriant plot of tropical varieties.

Planting was a symbol of hope because it required faith in the unseen.

But that idealism seemed to have gone the way of the un-nourished seed with the emergence of mega cities, with vast expanses of business districts, malls and parking lots. The urban dweller now has less space to showcase art and sculpture of the agricultural kind.

Rockwell Land closes on the traditions of art in the yard and the growing spirit of environmentalism through its newest residential project, the **Edades Tower and Garden Villas**. To those who choose to live efficiently in the heart of Makati, and still re-imagine more green in their controlled spaces, Edades is the answer.

It's a new concept in Manila condo living: units where square-meters of space are generously devoted to gardens. The Garden Villas form a landscaped cluster of townhome-like, tri-level units that extend from the main tower. Each unit in the cluster also comes with more opportunities for greening, with lawn areas providing ornamental and horticultural options as larger yards. In the two-storey garden villa, free-flowing hedges, colorful climbers and vines on pergolas, arbors and arches, are even possible.

The tower's Garden 2-Lofts have also turned convention on its head. Each 2-Loft spills out to warm sunshine by having a sizeable garden deck. The garden itself, probably adorned with a gleaming copper birdbath tucked amidst rows of colorful perennials, makes for a tranquil retreat, unbelievably in Makati.

The gardens of Rockwell's Edades: not a strike against urbanization, but a way of imagining an increasingly modernized world as functioning and spiritually enriching, for people who want to keep nature close to their beds, though sky-high.

Experience this lifestyle as Rockwell opens its latest model unit in March. Come and visit the Rockwell Information Center or call 793-8088 for details. Or log on to **www.e-rockwell.com**

ENTERTAINMENT

Editor Rowena G. Velarde

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Pinoys in Berlin: Cannes winner gives 'great' master class

(Conclusion)

By Rayzel San Diego Jr.

AFTER VENICE-WINNING Lav Diaz in 2008, Cannes Best Director Brillante Mendoza becomes the second Filipino filmmaker to be honored with a retrospective and teaching stint at the world-renowned film school DFFB or the German Film and Television Academy Berlin.

Axel Estein, programmer of the Asian Hot Shots Berlin festival, related that the master class consisted of screenings of Mendoza's films at the Arsenal Cinema as well.

The master class and retrospective were held in the German capital early this month.

Round table

"Brillante analyzed the technical and aesthetic aspects, plus the social relevance of his films with the students in a round-table forum," Estein related.

Students also asked about RP politics, history and economy

He said the students expressed interest in the production details of Mendoza's films like "Tirador," "Serbis," "Foster Child," "Gerilya" and the Cannes winner, "Kinatay."

"They wanted to know more about his camera equipment and how he organized his location shoots," he said.

The students were curious about real time, a story-telling style employed by Mendoza and his acknowledged mentor and frequent collaborator, Armando "Ding" Lao.

"They regarded it as closer to documentary than conventional drama, in terms of technique," Estein said. "They also wanted to learn more about Philippine society – its history, politics, economy, social classes."

Unfamiliar terrain

Estein noted that Philippine cinema, and Philippine society in general, were unfamiliar terrain for the students. "The master class [gave] them a better understanding of the significance of Brillante's works in relation to contemporary Philippine realities." He described Mendoza as a "great" teacher.

"He was organized and very familiar with the structure of his subject matter. He was specific and precise with all the issues tackled in the day-long classes," said Estein.

At the same time, however, Mendoza was a "flexible" mentor, Estein added.

"He was able to answer the students' questions. He was keenly aware that the students were limited by their first-world point of view. In that way, he was a wonderful mediator between the two hemispheres." He cited and the West, the

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FT Island

Jazz, K-pop shows

SOUTH KOREAN boy band FT Island performs on March 6 at the Plenary Hall of the Philippine International Convention Center, Pasay City.

FT Island, short for "Five Treasure Island," is composed of Lee Hongki (lead vocals), Choi Jong Hoon (lead leader, guitar, keyboard), Choi Min Hwan (drums), Song Seung Hyun (guitar, vocals, rap), and Lee Jae Jin (bass, vocals, rap). Call 924-1513.

Pfizerlest gala

The reigning Philippine International Jazz and Arts Festival holds a gala performance on Feb. 25 at the Ayala Museum, Makati, with Paula Winters, MD Calbert Bocatcat, Tanit Hirunsa (Thailand), Arjuna (Bangkok), Isidoro Ignon (Mexico), Dwiki Dharmawan (Indonesia), Lewis Pragasam (Malaysia), Mohlin Islam (BPAE), the Lagrimas (Hawaii), Ray Holley, Dimitrius Gamot and Michael Booth (USA).

A SCENE from "Lolo"

Pinoys...

first and the third worlds.

"He opened up the audience to new perspectives and brought greater understanding and knowledge to them in the process," he said.

Best-known

Rocete regards Mendoza as the "best-known Filipino filmmaker to date... a leader in contemporary filmmaking."

At such, he was pleasantly surprised that Mendoza, in spite of his achievements in the global scene, was so down to earth and open to other people's ideas, experiences and questions," Rocete said. E-mail: bpsevening@gmail.com

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GALLERIA
1 Percy Jackson & Olympians: The Lightning Thief
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5 Invictus
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4 Cabe 3D

LIPA
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4 Cirque Du Freak: Vampire's Assistant

LAS PIÑAS
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2 Percy Jackson & Olympians: The Lightning Thief
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1 Valentine's Day
2 Pulang Na Kaya
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IMUS
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2 Valentine's Day
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4 The Wolfman

ANGELES
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2 Cabe 3D
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1 Percy Jackson & Olympians: The Lightning Thief
2 The Tooth Fairy
3 Predator

DUMAGUETE
1 Percy Jackson & Olympians: The Lightning Thief
2 The Tooth Fairy
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BACOLOD
1 Percy Jackson & Olympians: The Lightning Thief
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3 Percy Jackson & Olympians: The Lightning Thief
4 Universal Soldiers: Regenerated
5 Pulang Na Kaya
6 Legion

ILOILO
1 Percy Jackson & Olympians: The Lightning Thief
2 Cirque Du Freak: Vampire's Assistant
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4 The Wolfman
5 Solomon Kane
6 The Messenger 3: The Guardroom

GENSAN
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2 Love Happens
3 The Princess and the Frog
4 Daybreakers

ROXAS NORTE (NOW OPEN!)
1 The Princess and the Frog
2 Did You Hear About the Morgans?
3 The Imaginarium of Dr. Parnassus

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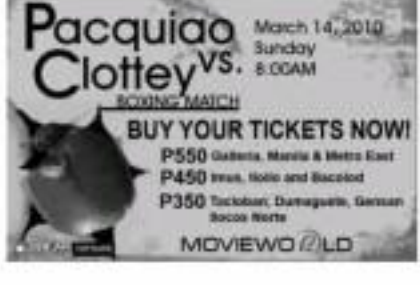

Erich Gonzales throws a tantrum during mag shoot

SINGSONG DANTE AND Marian Rivera had the time of their lives in Spain. "It was such an unforgettable experience to spend time with our celebrities there," Jeng said. "Being relationship kasi" we were in a foreign country and they served as our host. My sister has been living there for 10 years. Memories shall indeed cost trip all the more memorable by making us extra-sweet-lovable."

How did his meeting with her dad go? "It was cool. The trip was really more of a reunion of Marian and her dad because they hadn't seen each other for so long. I kind want to get over the picture. It's happy that they finally saw each other after six years."

What was the highlight of their holiday? "It was amazing to drive around a country with a vibrant nightlife in sun, relying on the sun's GPS, which only gives instructions in Spanish. It's a good thing Marian and I brushed up on basic Spanish skills, which was our darkest hour, our destination after getting lost and taking wrong turns on the highways."

Jeng and Marian will forever speak the same lingo of error and mum-ance!

***

Erich Gonzales was a major headache during a shoot for a top fashion mag. She broke into a tantrum after seeing her hair all curled up. "Our hairdressing spree to?" she screamed. "Ayaking para-ang hairdo." The seven girl ought to cover her mouth so their will be peace and quiet on the set.

Angel Locsin is often spotted hanging out with Heiress Tytgat's Chito Miranda and some friends. Will their friendship lead to Chito forming a Heiress Hi-Angel unit?

***

Amy Perez is super excited, yes, but nervous to be back on TV after six years. Her new show on TV5 will have Cory Quirino as her debut show, "Dreambahan."

"The telenovela-style will be an augmented version of my old show," she says. "This time, may happy ending na and crying-free but may resolution naman ang the genre."

What changes in her life was the most dramatic, per like via explosive confrontation scenes in her show? Wahs! I deleted that part from memory na," she says, laughing. "Here wala nang negative vibes. It's happy that relationships are."

***

After the scene, Amy can now see a solution.

***

Could it be true that ABS-CBN will experiment with the "Hocus Ding Dong" Undercover comedy by trying to bring in the solo factor between Melai and Jason to make their team-up more exciting? Too much jealousy could really be a "factor" to the Idolatron team-up.

***

Tonight after "Jeri Jeri Jeri," GMA 7 launches the spin-off to the sister-brand masterpiece of Sweetie-Ding Dado J. Cajanta, "Tuesday Kids," based on the all-time Filipino-fave, "Ang Tuesday." It features the adventures of three ordinary kids chosen by the age-old prophecy to save humanity from the evil forces of Lilandia.

It is top-billed by Sweet "Baby" Villar as Dibet, Julian Trevor as Nadji and Gabriza Mae as Charlie.

The ride begins after the end of the reign of the evil Lilandia in the world. Flavia, the original Tuesday, has no one else to fight. He left the land and found peace in the supernatural subdivision.

The Tuesday sword was left in the hands of non-chosen famous for their exceptional sword-fighting skills. "Tuesday Kids" is not just kid stuff.

E-mail tuesdaykids@abs-cbn.com.

ERICH Gonzales

DOLLY WOOD

Dolly Anne Carvajal

LEARNING
Editor Chade Bansil Formoso
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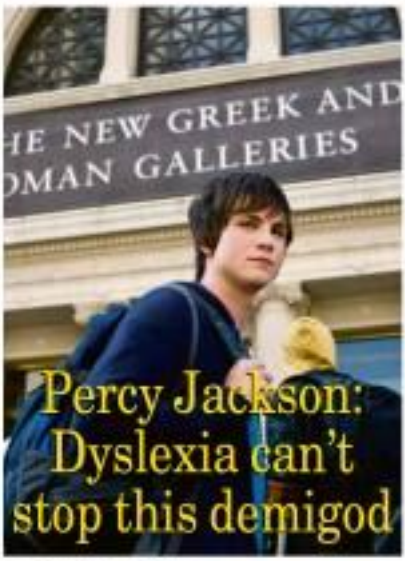
A lesson plan on the 2010 elections
Cartoon critique: Using art and humor / F4

election.com



Percy Jackson: Dyslexia can't stop this demigod

UPON RUNNING OUT OF myths about gods and heroes to relate to his son, Rick Riordan started making up a story about a young protagonist named Percy Jackson who has to contend not only with dyslexia but also the perils of being a demigod caught in the power play among the deities of Mt. Olympus.

At the suggestion of his son, who has dyslexia and attention deficit/hyperactivity disorder (ADHD), Riordan wrote what became the book "The Lightning Thief," the first in what would become known as the "Percy Jackson and the Olympians" series, and now a 20th Century Fox motion picture currently showing in local theaters.

Dyslexia is a learning disability in the specific areas of reading, writing and spelling.

In the movie, Percy Jackson is a seemingly ordinary teenager struggling with dyslexia.

Works to advantage

"At the beginning you think he's just like any kid with a learning disability," says Logan Lerman, who plays the role. "Then you find out this disability actually works to his advantage."

One of Hollywood's most glamorous and bankable stars, Uma Thurman, plays snake-haired Medusa (See chart on Page F4.) in this action adventure directed by Chris Columbus ("Home Alone," "Harry Potter").

Thurman happens to have dyslexia and a daughter who has the same disorder. That is why the Percy Jackson character, she says, is close to her heart.

"It is hard for children who are wonderful but who have something that challenges them. They may feel inadequate because of the way in which we choose to educate and learn," says Thurman.

She says there's one not a lot of modern reading about dyslexia when she was young. "You were just considered stupid. The frustration and pain of hearing, listening, knowing, feeling and getting it — but not being able to do it the way others are doing it and being labeled stupid — can give you a pretty serious complex, which follows you all the way through your education."

It is wonderful that today the disorder can be detected much earlier, she adds. "My daughter was recognized in first grade, although that didn't make it any easier for her, I have to say, and it didn't make it easy for me as a parent either because I thought they were insane telling me 'Oh, she's dyslexic.' Was everything?"

But, in hindsight, the actress thinks early detection is something to be appreciated. "So much as it's still difficult, at least you can do whatever you can to help these days. The funny thing with dyslexia is that there's no cure. You need to grow out of it to some extent. Dyslexics just learn differently. You may always read more slowly but still have total comprehension and memory, or it can get worse and haunt people further. If you are not supported and it doesn't get better, you can never enjoy reading."

THURMAN: Early detection is important so the dyslexic child can be helped.

Oral learner

"By the way, being a powerful oral learner is incredible too. It began of what makes me an actress," notes Thurman. "Many dyslexics are highly verbal people and very expressive. They have emotions gifts in that area."

Annette Bening, who plays Persephone, says kids have to be so cognizant of what their gifts are. "To have to deny Jackson who he has been told he is dyslexic because he isn't cope with the English language since his brain is set really hardwired for Greek. I think it is a shame that today's kids have these words and diagnoses thrown at them and you told there is something wrong with them. But in this story Percy learns that disabilities can be seen as something positive, actually an advantage. The story asks: What if they were true? What if we lived in a world in which magic was real? What if the short comings that kids worry having in life were actually gifts? What would that look like? And what if you were needed to save the world?"

DAWYSONE: It's not good to label kids

Besides relieving positively as a learning disability, "Percy Jackson and the Lightning Thief" also reinterprets Greek mythology to today's young audiences, with a contemporary twist. In this action

PERCY JACKSON: F1

TEETH FOR TAT

by DR. AMARYLLIS C. BRIGOL
President
Philippine Dental Association 2010

ANY GOOD NEWS FOR BAD BREATH?

Halitosis, or bad breath is the condition of having unpleasant, putrid or offensive-smelling breath. People simply want to get as far away from someone when bad breath is quickly or possible. A major cause of halitosis is decreased amount of saliva, considering that saliva helps in cleansing our oral cavity and reducing the risk of having bad breath. Decreased salivary flow (xerostomia) to grow causing bad odor to develop.

Notice that in the morning, we usually smell an unwanted odor when we breathe. That's because saliva flow stops during sleep. When a person is dehydrated, not much saliva produced, allowing bacteria to grow which leads to bad breath. Since chewing food increases saliva in the mouth, people who have smoke or are on a diet are more likely to have bad breath.

Saliva naturally contains oxygen which keeps the mouth healthy and fresh. Most bacteria are anaerobic, which means those thrive with little or no oxygen. If there's less saliva, there's less oxygen – creating an anaerobic environment perfect for bacteria growth. Dry mouth or xerostomia may be caused by medications, breathing through the mouth, or a salivary gland problem.

Halitosis can be an embarrassing problem. It can be caused by the foods you eat, dry mouth, tobacco products, or a medical disorder.

Food particles that remain in the mouth when a person does not brush or floss their teeth thoroughly may rot, cause bacteria growth and produce bad odor. This can also lead to tooth decay and gum disease.

Low carbohydrate diets can also cause what is known as ketone breath. "Low carb" foods cause the body to burn fat as its energy source. The end product of this process is called ketone. Ketone produces a fruity aftertaste like odor in the breath when exhaled.

There are medical disorders that can cause bad breath like chronic infection (pharyngitis), sinusitis, nasal infections in the respiratory tract, chronic sinusitis, diabetes, lipogenic dysplasmia, lactose intolerance, and even periodontal infection (severe gum problem).

Dentures or dental appliances such as braces can contribute to bad breath. Food particles trapped in these appliances may not be thoroughly cleansed. Loose filling dentures can also cause sores and localized infections in the mouth, causing bad breath.

There are some measures an individual can do to prevent or get rid of bad breath. Brush the teeth after meals or at least twice a day with fluoridated toothpaste. Scrub or brush the tongue to remove the food particles. Use dental floss regularly. Remove dentures at night and clean them thoroughly before reinstalling. Replace toothbrushes every 3 or 4 months. Stop smoking/chewing tobacco-based products.

You must also keep your mouth moist. Drink plenty of water and chew sugarless gum or hard candy to stimulate the production of saliva. Avoid foods with onions and garlic. Mouthwash can only mask bad breath but may not treat or underlying cause. Consult a physician to treat medical disorders and visit your dentist twice a year.

With a healthy lifestyle, proper diet and good oral hygiene, it's not impossible to prevent or get rid of bad breath. And that's the good news!

—

For questions, comments, or suggestions, email lotteyp3@yahoogroups.com and ask@pda.ph

Encompassing the Total Health of Humanity
PHILIPPINE DENTAL ASSOCIATION

XYLITOL: It's Bad News For Bad Breath.

Did you know that dogs have a very keen sense of smell? Their scent detection ability is far superior compared to that of humans. This super sense of smell allows dogs to smell even the faintest of scents and odors at a distance, that you don't need canine-like olfactory senses to sniff and smell bad breath. Good thing there's something you can do to prevent bad breath. That's good news!

What Is Bad Breath And What Causes It?
Bad breath or halitosis is used to describe noticeably unpleasant odors exhaled in breathing – whether the smell from an oral source is due to bacteria or otherwise. Halitosis is caused by a number of reasons, some of which are eating certain foods, smoking, drinking alcohol, obesity and poor oral hygiene. It usually results from the incubation of food particles, gases, and chemical and elements that are left inside the oral cavity or digestive system.

Majority of halitosis cases originate from the mouth. The different sources of the odor include gums, tonsils, esophagus and stomach, with the tongue being the most common of all.

Can Xylitol Help Prevent Bad Breath?
Maintaining clean and healthy teeth can help in preventing halitosis. Xylitol helps keep the teeth plaque and cavity-free making it safe from tooth decay – which is a catalyst for bad breath.

Xylitol can't be metabolized by the bacteria Mutans Streptococci that are commonly found in a person's oral cavity. These bacteria absorb the sugars and carbohydrates from our food and metabolize them into lactic acid. This acid then demineralizes or minimizes the tooth enamel, making it vulnerable to decay. But since they can't metabolize xylitol, no lactic acid is produced, therefore preventing the build-up of plaque and decreasing the risk of tooth decay.

How Many Gums With Xylitol Must I Take To Help Prevent Bad Breath?
Most gums only mask the odor of halitosis, resulting to temporary prevention of bad breath. But dental health gums like **Lotte Xylitol** can be more successful in helping prevent halitosis during the inherent qualities of a dental health gum, it has xylitol that covers the gum's dental protection properties. Having 2 pieces of **Lotte Xylitol** 4-5 times a day, can help keep the teeth healthy and your breath fresh. So watch your diet, live healthy, and practice good oral hygiene because it's time for a breath of fresh air!

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Member Schools

Adamson promotes 'systemic change' in serving the poor

ADAMSON UNIVERSITY, ONE OF THE country's leading Catholic educational institutions today, is taking a lead role in promoting the "Systemic Change Initiative" in the Philippines designed to bring about holistic social transformations of poor communities towards genuine and meaningful empowerment.

In Gregg L. Bañaga, Jr., OIC, Adamson University president, made the announcement on the occasion of the launching of the first-ever St. Vincent de Paul (SVP) National Awards aimed at conferring due honors and recognition to organizations committed to pro-poor programs that reflect a systemic change in society.

"The demands and expectations of the poor have tremendously changed over time. It is time we look for and adopt fresh and new approaches to serve them well. In this regard, Adamson is taking the lead in promoting the Systemic Change Initiative in the country," he said.

"We will therefore give due recognition and honor to people and organizations that have not only promoted short- and long-term effective and concrete solutions to poverty, but also, and most importantly, uplift the dignity and empower the poor and their communities," he added.

The first-ever SVP National Awards is being launched on the occasion of the Catholic Church's international celebration of the 200th death anniversary of St. Vincent de Paul and St. Louise de Marillac, the patron saints of all charitable and social works, respectively.

According to Fr. Bañaga, Systemic Change Initiative (SCI) serves as both a concept and a framework introduced by the Vincentian Commission for the Promotion of Systemic Change to implement meaningful strategies or approaches to helping build a self-sustaining community here and abroad.

These strategies are (1) mission-oriented, which focuses on direction and motivation; (2) people-oriented, which focuses on the belief that the poor and the marginalized as the best persons who are most capable of changing their own situations; also, SCI is (3) task-oriented on focusing on organizations; and (4) on strategies directed toward co-responsibility, networking, and political action which is more as meaningful participation and solidarity among the stakeholders.

For pro-poor programs or projects to reflect a systemic change concept, it should reflect a (1) long range social impact; (2) sustainability; (3) replicability; (4) innovation; (5) collaboration among stakeholders; and (6) cultural impact or a change of attitudes and behavior of persons in the community.

The National Awards is named after St. Vincent de Paul, the universal patron of all charitable works and charitable organizations, who in his lifetime has created a system of helping the poor or in organized charity rather than just individual charitable work.

CSU-JPIA HOSTS MANILA ACCOUNTING SHOWDOWN
Tau Gamma Epsilon University Junior Philippine Institute of Accountants event is hosted by the Central Luzon State University at the CSU Library. Competitors from recently Davao-based-time, speech, Adamson University, Centro Escolar University, Far Eastern University, Manuel L. Quezon University, Pamantasan ng Lungsod ng Maynila, Polytechnic University of the Philippines, and University of the East participated in the showdown of future accountants. Students from the Polytechnic University of the Philippines-Lopez campus get excited after bagging three consecutive rounds of winning. Far Eastern University placed 2nd while Manuel L. Quezon University bagged 3rd place. Photo shown (from left) Leonardo Alling, Dr Erasmino Arango, Secretary of the Manila Accounting Showdown, Jasper Precious Gaetan Sales Santiago, and Dr. Rolando Veras.

De La Salle University-Dasmariñas faculty named Outstanding Finance Educator

DR. ALICE VILLEGO, CHAIR OF THE ALLIED BUSINESS DEPARTMENT of De La Salle University-Dasmariñas, emerged as a regional winner in the annual Rafael Buenaventura Outstanding Finance Educator (OFE) Award sponsored by 2009-2010 Financial Executives Institute of the Philippines (Finex) and the Citi Foundation/Citi Philippines. Seeking nine semifinalists from all over the country, the OFE award was bestowed upon by Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP) Governor Armando Tetang on Jr. recently at BSP. The OFE Award, now on its 3rd year, recognizes the outstanding qualities and contributions of finance teachers in the tertiary level and inspires them to enhance excellence in finance education to continually produce globally competitive graduates.

Britesparks International School's grade school students' on the job training at Mossimo

ONE OF THE UNIQUE FEATURES OF BRITESPARKS INTERNATIONAL School is its Enterprise Program. Britesparks is the first and only school that offers students the chance to foster entrepreneurial skills. Students experience different types of businesses, learn about sales and marketing, manufacturing, and management. Grade 6 to 7 students from Britesparks have expressed to the business world with their on the job training at Mossimo Store at SM North Edsa recently. During their OJT, they were able to take care of customers and aid in ringing up sales. The students said they really learned a lot during their short time at Mossimo. So if you would like to give your child the cutting edge in life, Britesparks, a regular member of the Council of International Schools (CIS) has ongoing enrollment for school year 2010-2011. Britesparks not only is providing quality preschool and grade school education but also for training their middle and high school programs this year, for more information on how to give your child an international education with the personal touch you can visit the website at www.britesparksschool.com or call 633-8881 or 437-8000 (216).

LPU, PTT Philippines Foundation sign MOA

CITIZENS OF THE PHILIPPINES UNIVERSITY (LPU) RECENTLY SIGNED a memorandum of agreement (MOA) with PTT Philippines Foundation, Inc. (PTTPFI) granting scholarships to deserving students under the LPU College of International Relations' Foreign Service Program. LPU president Senator Rodolfo P. Lanot and PTTPFI chair Siripong Phisitpaiboon signed the MOA at the PTTPFI Office in Makati last Jan. 20, with Ambassador Reynaldo Arcilla, dean of the LPU College of International Relations and PTTPFI's Chanakarn Wisarn as witnesses. The signing of the MOA established a scholarship grant worth P120,000 to be given to ten deserving students (P60,000 each) covering the students' tuition and miscellaneous fees for eight semesters. The scholars will be chosen by a screening committee selected and appointed by LPU and PTTPFI. The scholarships will be granted to deserving students beginning AY 2010-2011 for 1st long as the Requirements in the Implementing Rules are met by the recipients.

First Asia Run for Wellness held

MORE THAN 1,500 RUNNERS JOINED THE RUN FOR WELLNESS 2010 held recently at the Lima Technology Center, Malvar, Batangas. Run for Wellness is a program spearheaded by First Asia Institute of Technology and Humanities and the Lima Park Hotel to urge the members of the community to lead an active and healthy life. Participants joined the three fun runs — the 3K, 10K and 21K runs. The Office of the Municipal Crimelo Reyes of the Municipality of Malvar, Vice Governor Marc Lyndon and Lima Land Inc. supported the event. Jody Ann Imperial (women category) and Christopher Desingaño (men category) topped the 3K category while Marissa Dimas (women category) and Ramil Dias (men category) won the 5K category. The 10K category was topped by Rodrigo Latorio (men category) and Janet Agoza (women category).

MSEUF wins 1st place in Culinep Skills Competition

IF YOU HAVE A SWEET TOOTH, THE BUILDING DAYS TO CELEBRATE IS the Manuel S. Enverga University Foundation's (MSEUF) culinary pastry feasts that were first place in the Filipino Dessert Display category at the Council of Hotel and Restaurant Educators of the Philippines' (Culinep IV-A) Skills Competition at Leisure of the Philippines-Batangas. Team coaches Jhel Alfonso-Rafael Kanido. The dessert display team is composed of Camille L. Cardis and Yuan Mc C. Salido, while other two mates also bagged 3rd in the two cooking competitions and 4th in the sugar-folding category showing. The awards and citation ceremonies were held at the Batangas Region. The victory comes at the heels of the opening of a state-of-the-art Industrial kitchen at the CHHM Dona Rosario Bldg., according to dean Jury C. Tamondong. The CHHM program of MSEUF is on candidate accreditation status by the Philippine Association of Colleges and Universities Commission on Accreditation (Paccoa) while the Tourism program was recently visited for consultation by the same accreditation body. The win is a follow-up of Claire Pia Tan's winning the championship at the Philippine Lechonsong Fair Cooking Competition. Manuel S. Enverga University Foundation is on its second decade and now Four Centers of Development - College of Arts and Sciences, College of Computer Studies, and College of Criminology and Law Enforcement.

Letran Grupo de Fil-Chinos hold induction ceremonies of 2010-2011 officers

THE LETRAN GRUPO DE FIL-CHINOS, AN ORGANIZATION COMMITTED to rekindle the legacy and partnership between Letran and Filipino-Chinese alumni of the school held the induction of its officers for 2010-2011 at the Annapolis Seafood Restaurant in Annapolis Street, Greenhills on Feb. 20 at seven p.m. The elected officers are, chairman emeritus, Alfred Tan; chair, William Tan; vice chair, Dennis Tan; president, Alexander Wang; vice president, Eugenio Tiu; secretary, Jimmy Chan; treasurer, Thomas Gaerlan; auditor, Henry Lim; Bon Long; advisers, Guillermo Chua and Douglas Cua; sergeant-at-arms, Charlie Ye, George Wong, Philip Fu, Eugene Sy, Lyndon Lee and Quentin Chua. The Letran Grupo de Fil-Chinos has been very supportive of Letran's scholarship programs and has also financed the teaching of Mandarin to selected classes in the school.

UST Pax Romana alumni homecoming

ROMAN'S OFFICERS AND MEMBERS OF THE UNIVERSITY OF SANTO Tomas Pax Romana Society are expected to attend a general homecoming on June 5. The assembly will start promptly at 1 p.m. Venue of the gathering will be at the UST College of Accountancy, fronting the UST Hospital. Media and direct mail announcements are being made this early so that absent members across the country can adjust their schedule and itinerary vis-à-vis the homecoming. Important matters will be discussed during the plenary session like the society's participation in the much-awaited UST Quadri-Centennial Celebration next year. For further inquiries and relevant information, alumni-members are requested to contact the officers of the Pax Romana International Philippines: Dr. Dong Ello, 725-8100, local 2013, fr late Ellis, 8910-1000/8000, Jojo Mo Mateo, 8803-8700/17, Mrs. Rute Perez, 8909-2572/11, or e-mail to paxromana.alumni@gmail.com.

Southville represents country in UN simulation

FIVE HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS FROM Southville International School and Colleges (SISC) joined 1,500 delegates from 40 countries around the world at Georgetown University - School of Foreign Service's 5th Model United Nations (MUN) conference held Jan. 28 - 31 in Doha, Qatar. The event seeks to provide an unparalleled educational experience for talented secondary school students as they learn about the United Nations, international institutions, and the democratic political process. Through an exciting, real-world simulation, SISC was the only school from the Philippines represented in the said conference.

The SISC delegation was composed of Shayne D. Almonares, Dang Hwan Lee, Hyung Jun An, Yujin Ryu, and Sung Hee Hong with their mentor, Rene Alfonzo. Guided by undergraduate students from Georgetown University, the SISC representatives stepped into the role of a political figure, discussed and debated on current global issues, worked together to draft bills and resolutions, and experienced the challenging politics that prevail in an international body. They were also exposed to the realities of the democratic process by forging compromises while advancing the interests of their constituency thus, enhancing their leadership and IQ.

The global diversity of MUN participants offered delegates the unique opportunity to approach challenging issues from many different perspectives. The SISC participants discovered the intricacies of international diplomacy, combining learning with fun. They also developed valuable skills in public speaking, effective negotiation, and close working to become better problem solvers, democratic leaders, and global citizens.

School to professionalize project management in the country

AFTER THE CONTINUING SUCCESS of its course offerings in Quantity Surveying and Supply Chain Management, the TIP Center for Continuing Education (TIP-CCE), Technological Institute of the Philippines' (TIP) modern and fully equipped training center, is offering another diploma course, this time, on Project Management. Classes for the first module of the program will commence in mid-February of this year.

According to TIP president Dr. Elizabeth Lalves, "It has been recognized that in a lot of projects, success depends largely on the managing skills of project managers. That is why the trend now globally especially in the US, is the professionalization of project management. With the vision of helping the country professionalize its own pool of project managers, we are offering the Project Management course to individuals and groups who want to improve their skills in the aforesaid craft."

TIP-CCE's Project Management course is a six-module program to be completed in 21 sessions. The course is being offered in partnership with Optima IS Management Inc (Optima), a project management consultancy and training firm. The program, which can be taken by modules, teaches participants various principles, tools and techniques, and best practices in managing projects.

For inquiries and reservations you can call TIP-CCE at 735-5176, 0915-4200604 or e-mail tip_cce@yahoo.com. Or you can visit them at the 2nd floor, TIP Antipolo Campus, Manila.

EUREKA! *Queenie N. Lee-Chua*

From our readers

HERE IS A SAMPLE OF REQUESTS I GET from readers:

Anne Gabuloton says: I read many of your articles and I have a question. My son is now in third year high school, and he wants to be a doctor. Next year, he will be taking several entrance college tests. Should he take a review class? Can you recommend review centers?

My reply: I am happy that your son wants to be a doctor, and I hope he has been studying well to be able to enter a good pre-med program. If you have read many of my columns, you would have realized that I do not, as a rule, advocate formal or review centers because cramming for tests does not truly work.

The best preparation for college is not a review center, but rather rock knowledge gathered from years of serious study.

The good thing though is that your son is thinking of doing a review class months ahead of the tests. If he feels it will help him gain confidence then, by all means, let him do so. Your son can ask students who in previous batches attended review centers, if any, helped them get into their dream school.

Getting into the Ateneo

A fourth-year high school student who wishes to remain anonymous says: I enjoyed your article "Getting Into the Ateneo" (Feb. 11). You made it all real. I did not know how to make my appeal. Thanks for the information! I have really wanted to go to Ateneo ever since I was a kid.

My reply: You are welcome, but again, please ensure that if you do get into the Ateneo, you will study smarter and harder, and not waste the opportunity. Many students dream of getting into your university, but not all of them are willing to do the required work.

Jet Stein says: Can you e-mail me a copy of your column "Getting into the Ateneo"? It will save me from scanning a copy that may not be too readable. By the way, the Inquirer website has the News icon, but the Headlines link that leads to the Learning section does not seem me.

My reply: I do not send out e-mail copies to readers, since this column is posted online. My usual reply to readers who would like to access my columns online is to go to www.inquirer.net and click the News button at the left side of the home page, then click on Headlines, and then Learning. Sometimes though, readers point out that the News icon hangs, making it difficult to access the Learning section.

Another way can be just to google my name and the column title. The name URL should appear, and you can just scroll a copy of the column to your friend or on your inbox.

Family meals and children

But Sue writes: I saw a doctoral student in Child and Family Studies and I have successfully defended my dissertation, "The Marital Relationship: Crucial to Functioning of a Filipino Family in Poverty." One of my themes is family meals and how they help significantly in the functioning of a family. My program chair wants me to cite your research paper about family meals and high-functioning children. I would appreciate any help.

My reply: Congratulations on your successful thesis defense! In today's turbulent society, the stability of the family remains crucial—for stability and individual families alike. I have indeed been part of an intense team that researched factors that help Filipino public and private school students do well in school. Family support is a significant factor, and regular family mealtimes, where children discuss the events of the day with their parents and with each other, are essential to family well being. Get a copy of our books "Helping Our Children Do Well in School" at National Bookstore in Powerbooks, and "Supporting my Child's Success at the Ateneo Loyola Schools Bookstore.

Low self-esteem

From a reader who wishes to remain anonymous: I am suffering from Chronic Anxiety Disorder and I have very low self-esteem and self-worth. How can I overcome these? I also fear crowded places. Please help me.

My reply: By asking for help, you have taken the first step to facing your fears. The next step is to seek an experienced therapist, like a clinical psychologist, and perhaps afterwards, a psychiatrist, if medication is needed. With his/her help, you can cry to discover the reasons for your conditions.

Have you undergone recent or past trauma? Have you grown up having these anxieties? Have people bullied or abused you in any way, thus resulting in low self-worth? A therapist can work with you on a vocational plan to manage your anxiety, including your agoraphobic fear of crowded places and your self-esteem.

Treatments can range from cognitive restructuring and behavior modification to psychotherapy and anti-anxiety medication.

Culture and math

Bonnie Calapoing says: I am a sophomore Applied Mathematics student, and one of my subjects is college writing. I (am) interested in how culture can affect math ability. I read your article on mathematics and its importance in our country. I hope you can help me finish my paper. My question is: Does culture have a vital role in molding math ability?

My reply: If you have read my articles on math, then you should have realized that culture does play an important role in societal attitudes towards science in general, and math, in particular. For example, because of historical and societal reasons, East Asians generally are quite proficient in numbers and problem-solving which, unfortunately, does not seem to be the case for the Philippines.

Get a copy of my book "Number Thoughts on Math," available at National Bookstore, as a guide for your paper. There are other thoughts that you can use for your topic (from many other researchers) online.

E-mail the author at bluedandy@yahoo.com.

JULIAN Quiocan of Pagsanjan and his watercolor, "No. 25 ng Pebrero 1986," that won first prize

"MAMA," another watercolor, won second prize for Giovanyr Corta.

LESTER Longjerey's oil painting, "Halaang Pantasya," was third.

Bulacan student wins annual art competition for phone book cover

ALL OF SMYRNA TRW BRANCH1 the finish in the 24th Visual Art National Competition organized by the Philippine Long Distance Telephone Company and the Directories Philippines Corporation are on display at the National Museum until Feb. 28.

Theme of the competition was "Gory Against Her Legacy to the Filipino" to honor the memory and legacy of the late president, Ricardo D. Ramirez, DPC president, said they chose the theme because they wanted to know who Aquino meant to young Filipinos.

Francis Joseph "Kiko" Aquino Dee, Aquino's grandson, attended the awards ceremonies and thanked everyone for paying tribute to his grandmother.

Julius Eymard L. Pagtulgan, a fine arts student of Bulacan State University, won the grand prize. He received P500,000 in cash while his school got a donation in kind worth P45,000.

His watercolor painting, "Bar (5 ng Hunyo 1988)," the judges' unanimous choice, will be featured on the cover of the 2010-2011 PLDT-DPC Metro Manila telephone directory. It shows Aquino holding a banner filled with mayo birds. Hands from the Lahus sign in the background.

Dionisio C. Cruz of the Technological University of the Philippines received the second prize of P72,000 cash for his watercolor "Manila." Her school got a P36,000 donation in kind. "Salubong Pasasaya," an oil painting by Lester B. Longjerey of the Philippine Women's University was third. He received P60,000 in cash; PWU got a P28,000 donation in kind.

All three received a trophy designed by National Artist Napoleon Abueva.

Others in the top eight were Fiann Nikki F. Lacsina, Bo Ramon University, 4th; Chris Sapotaan, Adventist University of the Philippines, 5th; and Michael E. Cacapit of University of the San Cabeteran, Jarvelo C. Yokie of University of Southern Philippines, and Dave dejay A. Tan also of DLC, 1st, 2nd and 3rd honorable mentions, respectively.

This year's judges were artists Justin "Tiny" Nayda (chair), Ronaldo Capili, Raven Dennis Flores, Paul "Pepe" Isla Husiad, and Phyllis Lubalbon.

During the awarding ceremonies, Boots Enriquez, community development manager of the anniversary treasury movement of the Rotigen 6 Aquino Jr. Foundation (RAF), urged the finalists to be the nucleus of a circle of artists who could become advocates in governance, livelihood, education, environment and health.

Discounts for tutorial services

IN CELEBRATION OF THE YEAR OF the Golden Tiger, Tutoring Club Alabang, Muntinlupa, Ortigas, Greenhills, Mona Heights, Quezon City, is giving five diagnostic tests and tuition fee discounts until March 31.

Students of Chinese schools in Metro Manila (St. Jude Catholic School, Grace Christian Academy, St. Stephen, Philippine Institute of Quezon City, Quezon City Christian Academy, International Corporation Academy, Xavier School, Zubilan Christian Academy, Hui Bukkharan Academy, etc.) are getting additional discounts.

The club offers parents tips on how to help children stay focused and motivated so they can make the most of the last days of the school year:

■ Ask your children if they need help in reviewing for a test, do their homework or a difficult project.

■ Ask them to prepare a schedule and study plan they should include time and projects to avoid cramming and make time for other less-relevant requirements.

■ Give them space where they can study quietly away from distractions. If they have to use the computer, insisted them not to play games or surf the Internet unless they are doing research.

STUDENTS of Hiyo's Hunds Chinese schools get additional discounts this Year of the Tiger at the Tutoring Club.

■ Talk to teachers to find out if any of the kids is having any difficulty. Ask for additional exercises or graded activities to reduce your children's grades. Enroll your children in tutoring centers.

Tutoring Club is a United States-based learning company offering personalized tutoring adapted to a child's specific needs. Its exclusive Tutorfail programs in mathematics, reading and writing has helped children improve their skills in core academic areas.

Through the TutorUp program, Tutoring Club also offers help in algebra, trigonometry, physics, Filipino, etc. It teaches basic computer skills like word-editing, outlining, time management and preparations for tests like high school placement and college entrances. Call 7439995, 2336683 or 0919-4506867; or visit 2/F Jollibee Equipment Bldg., 422 N.S. Amoranto Street (formerly Retiro) corner D. Tuazon Avenue, Quezon City.

A question for smart kids

WITH THE SUCCESS OF THE first Smarter Philippine young, Ovaltine is once again getting ready for 12-year-old Filipino students to discuss or express their thoughts.

Participants will have to answer the question: "What can a smart kid do for his country?"

Deadline for submission of entries is April 30.

Students can express themselves in their preferred format, which may be a photo, video, artwork or song. It should be sent with proof of Ovaltine purchase.

Entries may be submitted through http://www.smarterphilippines.com.ph, e-mailed to smarterphilippines@gmail.com, or sent to Yhel Philippines, 9th floor, Manila Times, 312 20th Street Bhd cor. 4th Avenue, Bonifacio Global City, Taguig City.

To the first Smarter Philippine runner, fourth grader Ephraim James Bolilar answer to the question "If you were the President of the Philippines, what is the first thing that you would do?" won first prize.

Top 10 entries this year will each receive a computer package worth P30,000. Their schools will get the same computer package.

Ovaltine's unique formulation has mind-enhancers to help make kids smarter: iodine for proper mental functioning, iron to promote good attention span, folic acid to enhance memory, and zinc to improve cognition.

One World Learning series comes to RP

THE INTERNATIONAL LEARNING STYLES Network (ILSN), through Philippine affiliate Center for Learning and Teaching Styles (CLTS) Philippines, is conducting a series of seminars Feb. 25-March 1 in northern Luzon.

The series is the Philippine leg of ILSN's international educational fund-drive advocacy, "One World Learning Education on Brain Education."

Overall theme is the "Impact of Learning Style Instructional Strategies on Students' Achievement and Attitudes."

ILSN is an international education professional organization using the Dunn and Dunn learning model.

Seminar speakers are members of the board of the executive council of the ILSN from the United States, Sweden and Denmark.

Campus schedule, held in partnership with the Department of Education in Region 1 and the Commission on Higher Education in the Cordillera Administrative Region (CAR), follows:

Feb. 25—half-day seminar for students, Divine Word College, Urdaneta, Pangasinan, with the sub-theme "Learning and Task Performance: Developing Personal Mastery";

Feb. 26—whole-day seminar for school leaders, Divine Word College, Urdaneta, with the sub-theme "Differentiated Instruction: Teaching through Individual Students' Learning Styles";

Feb. 27—half-day seminar for students, Baguio Convention Center with the sub-theme "Learning as a Component of Personal Knowledge Management."

TechForum opens today

THE TECHNOLOGY PARTNERING FORUM (TPF) will be held Feb. 22-24 at Philippine Trade Training Center on Roxas Boulevard, Pasay City.

Organized by the Technology Resource Center (TRC), the forum includes the Technology Showcase that visitors can check out for specialized products and services.

Several state universities and colleges and the country's leading research and development institutes are presenting studies and market-ready technologies.

Other components of TechnoForum 2010 are the Idea to Liquidity Technology Symposium and the student-focused Innovation Opportunity Camp and Thesis Idea Challenge.

Among those featured in the exhibit are original Filipino technologies in herbal medicine, food processing, manufacturing, water treatment and utilization, alternative energy, biotechnology and green technology.

Also featured are support services such as computer programs, customized software, hardware and accessories, etc.

The Technology Partnering Forum (TechnoForum) 2010 is a part of the celebrations of TRC's 33rd year.

Visit www.trcinfo.ph.ms.com for details.

New 'fan club' launched

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different from mental disability, which was neither a disease nor an illness.

Mental illness, he said, was a collective term for different types of mental conditions, including those affecting a person's mood, thinking and behavior, like depression, schizophrenia and anxiety disorders, among others.

People with mental disabilities have a level of mental functioning well below average, significantly limiting their daily living skills. Their learning progress also falls below the standard for their age.

But mental disability did not mean a person could not learn, Bulmay stressed.

"Kids with intellectual disability, like others, want to develop their skills to the best of their abilities. Let us not deprive them of their right," he said.

Mangaoang said PWDs could be taught skills. However, she stressed that they had to be accepted by other people.

Bulmay said the talents of PWDs should get more attention. "Let us not focus on the disability. Instead let us go into the ability."

The rights of PWDs are guaranteed through Republic Act No. 7277, the Magna Carta for Persons with Disabilities, which was amended in 2008 by RA 9442.

New 'fan club' launched

By Stephen Norries A. Padilla
Contributor

BEA FAN OF acceptance, courage, integrity and human dignity.

The Special Olympics Philippines (SOP) issued this call as it launched a campaign to promote awareness of the rights of persons with disabilities (PWDs). The nonprofit organization launched the Be a Fan campaign in a forum attended by concerned groups and the media.

SOP is an affiliate of the Special Olympics International Inc. that supports some three million members in 150 countries, helps individuals with intellectual disability as well as holds sports training, athletic competitions and recreation throughout the year.

Alexander Suber, SOP national executive director, said the organization was conducting a worldwide advocacy campaign to generate awareness of the rights of people with special needs.

He said SWDs "should be accepted in our society regardless of their disabilities."

SOP president Mia Therese Macapagal said the Be a Fan campaign would be a "partnership with the media."

Suber said PWDs deserved equal treatment like other human beings. "It's about time we also learned how to address people properly as we should stop calling persons with intellectual disabilities 'mongoloids,' 'OA' (cerebral palsy), etc."

Citing ignorance as the root cause of discrimination, Suber said many people labelled PWDs as "mentally ill." He added that many Filipinos localize "suffer quietly" because they were ridiculed by other people for having members with PWDs.

Macapagal said parents suffered more than their children with intellectual disabilities because they understood what was happening. She mentioned the reported refusal of Cebu Pacific to accept a special child as a passenger.

Madeleine Mountcastle and her husband Jerry, parents of the special child, were present at the forum.

MIA THERESE MACAPAGAL

DR. RODNEY DALISAY

Director Mary Lee of the National Council on Disability Affairs, a PWD himself, urged people, particularly those in the media, to be "conscious and cautious" in the use of terminologies related to PWDs.

"Media can promote our skills and our talents the same way they do those of able persons," Lee said. He gave media guidelines on how to portray PWDs.

For instance, "intellectual disability" is more politically correct than "mental retardation."

The now politically correct terms were less stigmatizing and gave a more positive meaning for the society and the individual, PWD rights advocates said.

Dr. Rodney Dalisay, member of the Philippine Mental Health Association, said the previous term more about labeling. He said mental illness was

NEW FAN CLUB/ F1

Greek mythology 101: Who's who at Mt. Olympus

THIS IS A CHEAT SHEET IN CASE you are in the dark about the deities at Mt. Olympus, many of whom have found their way into Rick Riordan's bestselling series "Percy Jackson and the Olympians" and the current movie "Percy Jackson and the Lightning Thief."

Mt. Olympus is the mythical mountain that is home to the major Greek gods and goddesses, plus some demigods, divine spirits and creatures. Among themselves, they had children and competed for bragging rights as to who has more power. From this encounter, the deities watched the humans, lusted after them, prayed them against one another, played favorites, accepted offerings—much like modern mortal rulers in their grand and the games they played.

This is by no means a complete list of the deities in the most riveting mythology of all time. Remember that they have nothing to do with religion. These gods and goddesses are characters that have been created and perpetuated by folklore. — CBF

Greek Name	Roman Name	Description	Powers	Symbols
Zeus	Jupiter	Supreme ruler of Olympus, son of Cronus (Saturn)	Lightning bolt
Hera	Juno	Wife of Zeus	Peacock
Poseidon	Neptune	Brother of Zeus	Trident
Aphrodite	Venus	Daughter of Zeus	Girdle
Hades	Pluto	Brother of Zeus and Poseidon	Helmet
Apollo	Apollo	Son of Zeus and the nymph Leto, twin brother of Artemis	Sun, lyre, bow, chariot
Ares	Mars	Son of Zeus and Hera	Spear
Artemis	Diana	Daughter of Zeus, twin sister of Apollo	Bow
Athena	Minerva	Daughter of Zeus	Goddess of wisdom, household arts and crafts (e.g. weaving), warfare	Owl, helmet and shield
Demeter	Ceres	Sister of Zeus, Poseidon and Hades, mother of Persephone	Goddess of agriculture, harvest, fertility	Ear of wheat, cornucopia
Hephaestus	Vulcan	Son of Hera, husband of Aphrodite	God of fire, metalworks, volcanoes	Smith's hammer, anvil, tongs
Hermes	Mercury	Son of Zeus, messenger god	God of travel, cunning, commerce	Winged sandals, staff
Hestia	Vesta	Sister of Zeus, Poseidon and Hades	Goddess of home life	Hearth
Persephone	Proserpine	Daughter of Zeus and Demeter, kidnapped by Hades to become Hades's wife	Goddess of spring	Pomegranate, narcissus
Dionysus	Bacchus	Son of Zeus and Semele (a mortal)	God of wine, ecstasy	Wine, grapes, Snake hair
Muses		One of three sisters known as the Graces, beloved by Poseidon and gave birth to Pegasus and Chrysaor	Goddess of celebration, creativity	
Cronus		Son of Uranus and the nymph Philyra	Centaur god
Satyrs	Fauni	Half human (upper body) and half goat (tail, hooves, pointed ears), companion of Dionysus	Wine, deities of the forests, mountains

Percy Jackson

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adventure, the Greek gods are transported to America—the homeworld the underworld have underneath the Hollywood sign in California while the gateway to Mount Olympus is on the Fifth Floor of New York's Empire State building.

In the movie's publicity, Percy learns that the father whom he thought has abandoned him is actually the god of the sea, Poseidon (Kevin McHale) and that being a demigod (his mother is a mortal) is not a walk in the park. Uncle Zeus (Sean Bean), supreme ruler of Olympus, tampers lots of stealing a precious and all-powerful lightning bolt. Another uncle, Hades (Steve Coogan), god of the underworld, kidnaps his mother, Sally (Catherine Keener). So much for newfound family!

Percy must prove his innocence, avert an epic conflict, rescue his mother and accept his father for who he really is—all done at the same time that he's dealing with dyslexia. Good thing he found almost as he embarks on this perilous expedition. Around we help are his childhood friend Grover (Brandon Jackson), who turns out to be a scrungerous satyr; another demigod, Annabeth (Alexandra Daddario), daughter of the goddess of wisdom Athena, and Chiron (Pierce Brosnan), god of wine.

"The film really has a universal theme because everybody goes through a journey of trying to find out who they are," says Logan.

"Percy Jackson and The Lightning Thief," distributed by Warner Bros., is now showing in local theaters.

We're looking for true stories from
World War II

The Philippine Veterans Bank and the Philippine Daily Inquirer are pleased to announce the 2010 WWII True Stories Contest

The competition aims to preserve stories about the personal experiences of the men and women who served during the Second World War, as well as other individuals who lived through the same conflict, through their own recounting. This contest is intended to show that students have interviewed, researched, read about and understood the subject and formed their own narratives.

The contest is open to all Filipino students 13 to 18 years of age attending public or private high schools in the Philippines. To compete, a high school student must:

1. Personally interview a WWII veteran or any person alive during WWII about his/her experiences during war era;

2. Write a narrative in English that tells in a maximum of 2,000 words the interviewee's story, including important details and quotes from the interview.

Each narrative entry should be an original, unpublished, logical, cohesive and fluently developed narrative written by one student. It should be accompanied by an entry form found in Inquirer's Learning section or in Inquirer's Libre once a week until March 2010. The coupon must be duly accomplished and glued on a sheet of paper that serves as cover page.

Previously submitted stories shall not qualify as entries.

The first place winner will receive a laptop computer and a prizes plus a PVB saving account of P10,000. The second place winner will receive a desktop computer plus a PVB savings account of P7,000. The third place winner will receive a digital camera plus a PVB savings account of P5,000.

Entries may be submitted to any Philippine Veterans Bank branch nationwide by 4 p.m. of March 16, 2010. Winners will be announced on April 5 and awarded April 12, 2010.

2010 WWII True Stories Contest
Official Entry Form

Name: _____
Address: _____
Mobile: _____ Telephone: _____
School: _____
Address: _____
Year: _____ Teacher's Name: _____

For complete contest mechanics, log on to www.philvetbank.com.ph or www.inquirer.com.ph

INQUIRER IN EDUCATION

What's so funny about the elections?

THE COMIC PAGE MAY BE A FAVORITE among young readers, but this may be a good time to introduce them to the cartoons art that is found in the Opinion page of the INQUIRER.

This lesson plan uses editorial cartoons and comic strips for teaching analysis of personalities and issues relating to the 2010 elections. It is designed for high school students but may be adapted to the intermediate level.

Objective

At the conclusion of this lesson, students will be able to analyze newspaper cartoons relating to the 2010 elections.

Materials

Recent newspapers, student activity sheet

Procedure

1. Prior to today's lesson, assign the class to read and clip the INQUIRER's editorial or opinion page as well as the comic page for a week.

2. For today's lesson, define metaphor, simile, hyperbole, satire and irony. Give as these tools used in editorial cartoons and comic strips to conveying humorous messages about the national elections? What can readers learn about candidates and issues from cartoons in the Opinion page and the comic page?

3. Ask the students to bring out their clippings.

4. Discuss and analyze some of the cartoons and comic strips collected that they brought with them. What do they say about the candidates? How are the candidates drawn? What issues are being painted out? How is humor used?

5. Divide the class into 10 groups. Assign each group to create its own scrapbook of editorial cartoons collected from the class and other resources.

6. Distribute the Activity Sheet and allow students some time to work on it. Discuss their output.

Extension

Assign the students to draw their own editorial cartoons or comic strips that either support or counter the sentiments of the cartoons in the group's scrapbook that may put together in class. Send the best cartoons or strips to the Philippine Daily Inquirer c/o Learning section, Chino Roces Avenue corner Yague Street, Makati City, with the name of the student artist, school, year level and your name.

Activity Sheet

Direction: Pick one of the heaven cartoons or comic strips in your group scrapbook. Then answer the following questions:

Which candidate is featured?

What did the cartoonist do to make the candidate look funny?

What issue is identified?

What is the cartoonist's position on the issue?

Do you agree with the position? Why or why not?